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INSIDE THIS WEEK:

£10,000 Lottery grant boost for voluntary group

TRIBUTES PAID TO MURDER VICTIM ALEX

Report by **Henry James**

17-year-old charged after body of popular shop worker is found in wooded area near Parbold Hill

TRIBUTES have been paid to a popular shop worker from Skelmersdale found murdered in woodland in Parbold.

Railway enthusiast Alex Davies, 18, has been described as a "lovely young man", a "nice, polite lad" and "amazing to work with."

And his boss at the Home Bargains store in Skelmersdale said he was a friendly character who enjoyed his job and loved working with customers.

A murder investigation was launched after police were called at around 5.25pm on Wednesday, May 1 when a body was found in a wooded area off Parbold Hill.

A Home Office post-mortem later confirmed the cause of death as stab wounds and asphyxiation.

Alex was reported missing from home on Tuesday, April 30 but the last confirmed sighting was at about 2pm the previous day on Station Road, Parbold, near to the railway bridge.

Detective chief inspector Geoff Hurst, of Lancashire Police's Force Major investigation Team said: "My thoughts and the thoughts of every member of the team that have worked on this inquiry are with Alex's family and friends at this exceptionally tragic and difficult time.

"I am aware of the huge impact this crime has had on the community of Parbold, but I am heartened at the way that same community has pulled together and been so respectful to Alex, his family and to my officers who have been out trying to find the evidence that we need."

A 17-year-old from Chorley has since been arrested and charged with murder,

He appeared before magistrates at Preston on Monday, May 6 and was remanded to appear at Preston Crown Court today (Wednesday, May 8).

Since news of the tragedy a number of tributes have been paid to Alex online, while floral tributes have been left near to Parbold Hill by family and friends .

Heidi Bolster Cahill wrote on the Skelmersdale Police Facebook page: "Been a pleasure being your neighbour all these years and watch you grow in to such a lovely young man. Rest in peace Alex."

Yvonne McLean commented: "I knew Alex briefly and he was a nice polite lad."

Simon Driscoll posted on Facebook: "Stunned and saddened to hear about Alex Davies, an amazing lad to work with when I was at the BHF, always willing to help anyone and turn a negative into a positive. Such a young age to go. RIP Alex."

Good friend Leon Kamel added: "Forever in our hearts. Rest easy my friend."

Alex had worked at Home Bargains for two years and had recently been promoted. He also had a love of railways and had the nickname 'Pacer' after the rail units.

Blogger Green Rail commented: "Rest in peace Alex Davies.

"Alex took great interest in the Wigan-Southport route when it was in development a few years ago and his knowledge, especially of the Parbold area, helped greatly."

Ian Hardman, an "avid railway and aviation photographer with a passion for transport and engineering" wrote a tribute to Alex on his Facebook page and posted a picture of a Pacer. He commented: "I'd like to take a short moment of time to dedicate this, though not entirely remarkable photograph, to a kind young man that we lost this week.

"Alex Davies, who went for a time on social media with the nickname 'Pacer', was a lovely lad and was doing some good things for charity most recently.

"I would like to pass on my condolences to Alex's family at this most awful of times.

"Rest in peace, young Alex. You were taken from us far too soon my friend. Rest easy and go and ride that great Pacer in the sky for me, mate!"

Alex Davies

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Church hosts Spring Flower Festival

CHRIST Church Newburgh, will be holding its annual Spring Flower Festival and Concert on the weekend of Saturday and Sunday, May 11 and 12.

The theme for this year's event is Hymns and the church will be decorated with flowers donated by village organisations.

The church, located on New Acres, Newburgh, will be open for viewing on Saturday from 10am to 4pm.

Entry is free and refreshments will be available.

And on Saturday evening, starting at 7.30pm, there will be a concert by Wigan Ukulele Band. Tickets, priced £8, can be ordered by phoning Margaret Swift on 01257 462629. All proceeds will go to the church.

On Sunday there will be services at 9am and 10.30am and a 'Hymns Of Praise' service at 4pm.

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Council meeting about about possible changes to provision of funding for voluntary groups

VOLUNTARY organisations in West Lancashire are being invited to a meeting to find out more about possible changes to the way the borough council provides revenue funding to such organisations.

For a number of years the council has provided revenue grants to voluntary groups who were successful in applying through the authority's process.

Previous recipients include Dial a Ride, Homestart and Bereavement Counselling Services.

But it is now considering different ways of funding such groups from April 2020 onwards.

More details will be given at a meeting to be held between 10 and 11.30am on Monday, May 13 at the council offices in Derby Street, Ormskirk.

Chris Twomey.

Chris Twomey, the council's deputy director of housing and inclusion, said: "Voluntary groups have a huge impact on the West Lancashire community and the council would like to support them as much as we can. We are looking at new ways of providing the funding for such groups and hope as many as possible can send representatives to the meeting so they can learn more."

Groups looking to attend can contact Sue Griffiths on 01695 585097 or by email at susan.griffiths@westlancs.gov.uk.

Organisations unable to send a representative to attend can still forward their contact details to Sue who will send out a questionnaire for them to complete which will then be included within the evaluation process.

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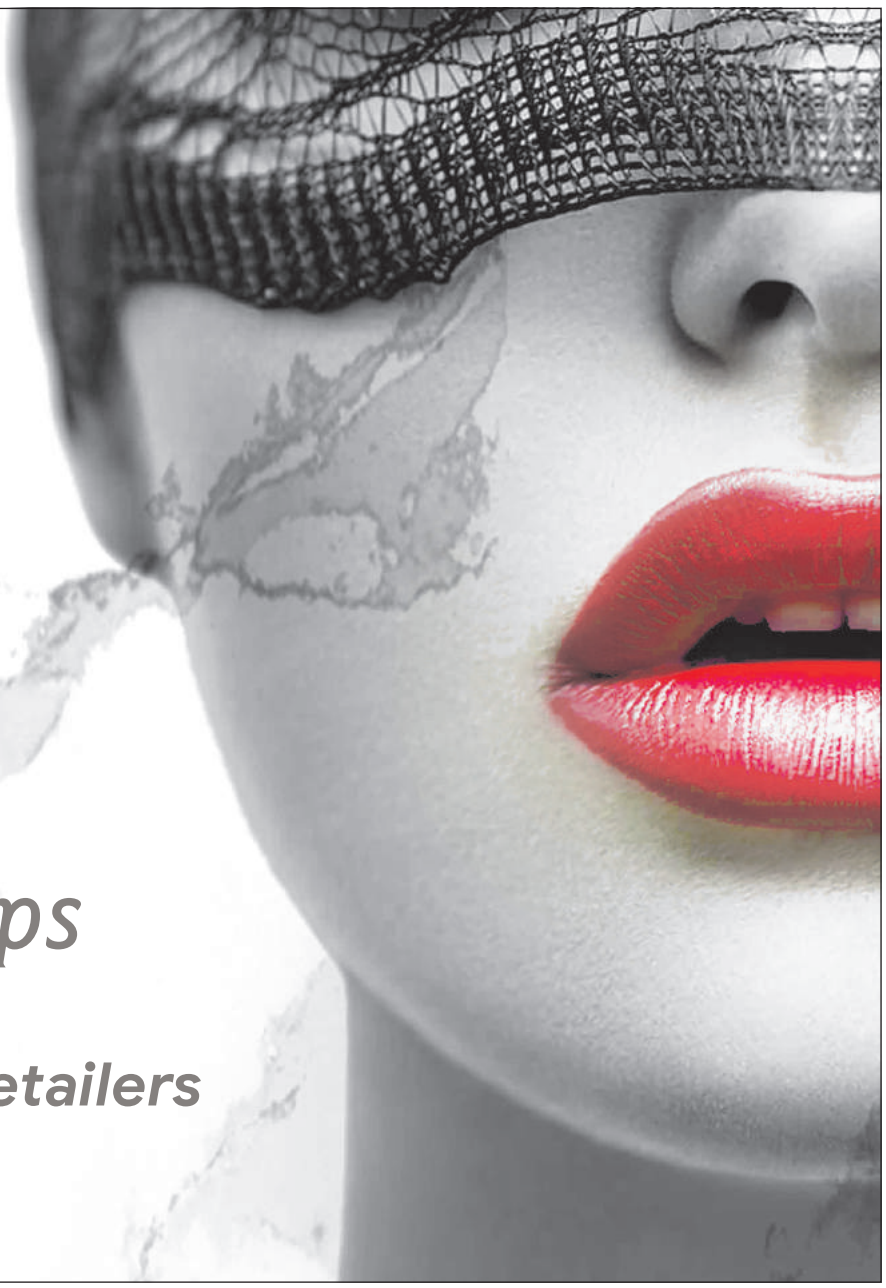

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MP calls for greater transparency on allocation of 'public' money to charities

...but CVS says "a full breakdown of all grant expenditure and projects supported" has been provided along with details of "robust" appliction and approval process

Report by **Kenny Parker**

ROSIE Cooper is calling on the NHS West Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group and the Council for Voluntary Services West Lancashire to be more transparent in their handling of taxpayers' money earmarked for charitable organisations.

The MP says it has been a tough year for the voluntary, community and faith sector which has seen the closure of Disability Advice West Lancashire, Brighter Future and Total Reuse CIC, and that she has been asked to provide support on numerous occasions to help unlock funding.

But, she claims that every time questions are put to the CCG and CVS about where funding for the sector - promised following the awarding of the community health services contract to Virgin Care - has been spent, no one could seem to answer where it all went.

However the CCG has said that decisions on where the money goes is delegated to the CVS.

And the CVS says a detailed report of where money was spent was provided in April but that it is unable to comment further due to its chief officer currently being off work sick.

West Lancs MP Ms Cooper said: "Having written to the CCG to ask where the £250,000 allocated in 2013 was spent, the chief officer stated that it had been provided to the CVS who had been left to distribute these funds to local charitable bodies at their discretion.

Rosie Cooper ..."information should be much easier to retrieve."

"After contacting the CVS chief officer numerous times over the past six months, and even meeting with him, I am still to receive any formal communication from the CVS to explain where this money has gone.

"After a torturous 10 months and only 'in an endeavour to be helpful', did the CCG finally cough up the figures and explain where the money had been allocated. As a public sector organisation funded by our taxes, I believe this information should be much easier to retrieve and the CCG should be more transparent in accounting for this money, perhaps through quarterly updates to their public meetings or on their website.

"In addition, it is reported that there has been another £100,000 allocated which will be repeated each year for 10 years, but again no one is offering any information explaining where this is going, or if it is allocated to whom has it been given and on what basis.

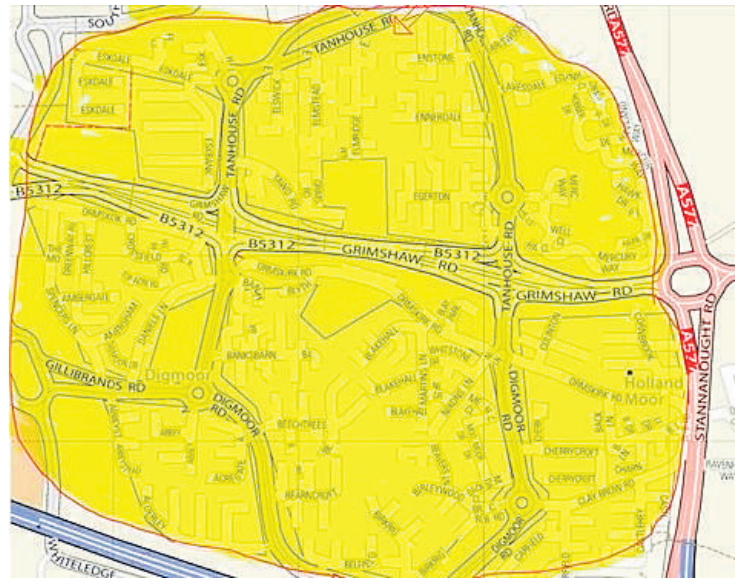
"At the end of the day this is taxpayers' money."

The CCG said it was responding to all of Rosie Cooper's enquiries and a spokesperson said: "The CVS is the appropriate body for this grant and was delegated the responsibility of how this was divided among community groups."

A spokesperson for West Lancs CVS, commented: "West Lancs CVS can confirm that a full and detailed breakdown of all grant expenditure and projects supported through the allocation of both the £250,000 in 2013 and £100,000 in late 2018 for the VCFS, was provided as part of a response (sent April 2, 2019) to a Freedom of Information request from Rosie Cooper's office to the Clinical Commissioning Group.

"Included within this pack of information were details of the robust application, scoring and approval process undertaken by West Lancs CVS as part of the management and distribution of the aforementioned funding.

"No further comments can be made at this time on any communication regarding this funding that may have taken place between the CVS Chief Officer and Rosie Cooper's office, as the CVS Chief Officer is currently on sick leave following cancer surgery and treatment."



The area where the stop and search powers were put in place

Police implement stop and search powers after reports of fighting with weapons in Tanhouse Road area

POLICE implemented stop and search powers following disorder in the Tanhouse Road area of Skelmersdale on Saturday, May 4.

Officers were called at around 7pm after reports of a number of men fighting with weapons in the street.

On the officers' arrival at the scene the group made off.

A 35-year-old man from Skelmersdale was arrested on suspicion of public order offences and is in custody.

Following the incident Section 60 powers were put in place until midnight that evening.

A Section 60 gives the police the power to search people or vehicles without suspicion in an area where they believe violence could take place.

College pupils enjoy spring term with an international flavour

LEARNING has had a distinctly international flavour at Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Engineering College during the spring term with a number of visitors from overseas and a successful first student visit to Sri Lanka.

In March 25 students from The Hague in Holland spent two days in the Skelmersdale school's engineering department 'buddying up' with Year 9 and 10 pupils. They enjoyed learning about computer-aided design and manufacture, taking part in group problem-solving and celebrating the art of acclaimed Dutch artist Vermeer with a creative photography project.

This was the third visit by the Dutch school with the main focus being an ongoing project between the two schools on designing and manufacturing tourist artefacts that promote both the cities of Liverpool and The Hague.

Meanwhile in July, Our Lady's students will travel to Holland to take place in an enterprise activity with their Dutch friends with the aim of raising money to be shared between two benefactors chosen by each school.

Our Lady's chosen benefactor will be the village and school of Eguafo in Ghana who have, for several years, been their 'developing world' partners.

Mr Jackson, engineering and technology subject leader, said: "It is great to see our hi-tech equipment being used in a similar way to the real world of manufacturing with design and marketing being shared in a global context."

March also saw the school bidding farewell and thank-you to Miss Taiko Ono from Chigasaki in Japan after six months working with the school's art and Japanese departments.

Collaboration

This collaboration has involved Japanese artists and art forms enriching the key stage three art curriculum, as well as enhancing the school's established, successful international programme.

Support was given to the project by a grant from the Japanese Daiwa Foundation that will also fund further collaboration between students in Japan and their Skelmersdale partners.

Our Lady's has also recently established a new 'developing world' partnership with a school in the tsunami-stricken south coast of Sri Lanka. Sixteen students and two members of staff working with the Janoda Foundation created a new collaboration, as well as friendships, between Our Lady's and the Tzu Chi secondary school in Hambantota.

The Sri Lankan and English students spent a week working on science projects using equipment and teaching aids that had been created in Our Lady's Engineering department.

The trip also involved a busy schedule of visits to cultural sights and wildlife reserves.

On one trip to a turtle sanctuary the students helped to build a beach hut for rangers using traditional techniques and natural materials and donated a number of head torches for night patrols.

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Edge Hill rises 13 places in university guide 'league table'

EDGE Hill University has reached its highest ever ranking after rising 13 places in the Complete University Guide's 2020 UK 'league table'.

The guide has placed the Ormskirk establishment in the top five in the North West.

It has also been ranked in the top three in the region for student-staff ratio, and in the top four for student satisfaction, good honours and degree completion.

Vice-chancellor, Dr John Cater, said: "The Complete University Guide is one of the key sources of advice and guidance for students considering entering university.

"Edge Hill has now risen more than 50 places in the guide in the past decade, an outstanding performance by any measure, and we are intent on continuing the upward trajectory in the years to come."

The Complete University Guide assesses 131 universities on their performance across ten measures - entry standards; student satisfaction; research quality; research intensity; graduate prospects; student-staff ratio; spending on academic services; spending on student facilities; good Honours degrees; and completion.

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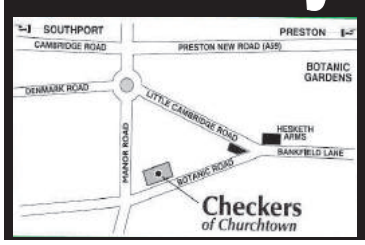

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Independents' Day!

Our West Lancashire are big winners in borough council elections claiming four seats from Labour

Report by **Henry James**

Cllr. Adrian Owens.

Cllr. Ian Moran.

Cllr. David Westley.

INDEPENDENT group Our West Lancashire were the big winners following last week's borough council elections, taking four seats from Labour.

And although Labour retain overall control of the local authority, OWL chairman, Councillor Adrian Owens described the result as "a massive wake-up call" for the two main parties.

Meanwhile, while council leader, Councillor Ian Moran, admitted it was "a disappointing set of results" for Labour.

The independents were successful in Bickerstaffe and also in three Ormskirk wards - Derby, Scott and Knowsley.

In the latter, former West Lancs Mayor and serving Lancashire county councillor Nikki Hennessy lost out by 120 votes to OWL's Kate Mitchell.

Cllr. Owens said: "I was 'blown away' by the scale and number of victories we achieved and thank everyone who voted for us. The Local Plan proposals were clearly a significant factor everywhere, while Ormskirk residents were also very concerned about the size and scale of three proposed student block developments in the town centre.

"This should be a massive wake-up call for both main parties, especially the ruling Labour group. They need to change their approach to residents, and quickly.

"West Lancashire is full of experienced and well-informed residents, but, to have a successful council, particularly when finance is tight, the council must now listen seriously to residents' concerns and seize the opportunity to harness the talent and positivity that exists on their doorstep.

"We will await the revised Local Plan proposals from Labour. The revisions will need to be wholesale and significant if they are to have any chance of final approval."

Cllr. Owens added that the group was also building support in Skelmersdale, where they polled 34% of the vote in Skelmersdale South.

The Conservatives, who retained the seven seats they were defending, were also happy with the result.

Group leader, Councillor David Westley, said: "I am delighted with the result and thank the residents of West Lancashire for having faith in their hard-working Conservative councillors. The results were remarkable with six of our candidates increasing majorities.

"It was particularly pleasing that our two new candidates - Alex Blundell in Scarisbrick and Anne Sutton in Tarleton - were successful. Both are young, born and bred in their wards and I know their background, local knowledge and enthusiasm will be a real boost for the group.

"As the official opposition on West Lancs Borough Council, the Conservative group has the important role of providing the necessary overview and scrutiny of the Labour administration. The Conservatives were successful in co-ordinating the opposition to Labour's new Local Plan and I assure residents that we take this role very seriously and will continue to act in their best interests."

Council leader Cllr. Moran said: "This was a disappointing set of results for Labour, most significantly losing one of our most popular, hard-working and experienced councillors in Nikki Hennessy.

"No doubt there were numerous factors that contributed to the loss but we are in no doubt that the Local Plan proposals published last year were not well received and voters have expressed their opposition, despite us having already scrapped them.

"We have always said we will listen to residents and their concerns which is why the Local Plan proposals are gone and it's back to the drawing board.

"We are still a Labour-controlled council who will govern for all the residents of West Lancashire, and we hope the opposition will contribute constructively also.

"However, we look forward to welcoming the four new Labour colleagues for Ashurst, Birch Green, Digmoor and Up Holland who will further strengthen our Labour group of councillors."

Overall turnout in West Lancs was 34% but the Tanhouse ward saw the lowest with just 24% of voters taking part.

The composition of the council now is Labour 29 councillors, Conservative 19 and Our West Lancashire six.

Results

Ashurst ward
Jan Monaghan (Labour Party)744
Rebekha Wymer (Skelmersdale Independents Working for Skelmersdale) 350
William Gilmour (Green Party) 155
George Rear (Conservative Party) 107.

Aughton & Downholland
David Westley (Con) 861
Paul Hennessy (Lab) 480
Gaynor Pickering (Green) 280.

Aughton Park
Marilyn Westley (Con) 741
Stephen Regan (Lab)351.

Bickerstaffe
Ian Rigby (Our West Lancashire) 540
Jeff Vernon (Con)145
Paul Dickie (Lab)116.

Birch Green
Carl Coughlan (Lab)463
Andrew Taylor (Skem Ind) 277
Jane Houlgrave (Con)50.

Derby
Gordon Johnson (OWL) 1,044
George Oliver (Lab) 427
Lynne Gray (Con) 160.

Digmoor
Julian Finch (Lab)432
Brian Hughes (Skem Ind) 385
Sue Janvier (Con) 41.

Knowsley
Kate Mitchell (OWL) 804
Nikki Hennessy (Labour and Co-operative Party) 684
Ruth Melling (Con) 303
John Watt (Green) 110.

North Meols
Tom Blane (Con) 595
Nick Kemp (Lab) 459
Stuart Wilson (UK Independence Party)152.

Parbold
May Blake (Con) 882
Isaac Brewer (Lab) 402.

Scarisbrick
Alex Blundell (Con) 617
Timothy Miles (Lab)328.

Scott
Jane Thompson (OWL) 945
Samantha Jones (Lab)562
George Pratt (Con)128.

Skelmersdale North
Jennifer Forshaw (Lab) 486
Maria Dumbell (Skem Ind)320
Malcolm Barron (Con) 70.

Skelmersdale South
Nicola Pryce Roberts (Lab)719
Blair Piggin (OWL) 439
Jayne Rear (Con) 123.

Tanhouse
Maureen Nixon (Lab)468
Aaron Body (Skem Ind) 277
Sarah Westley (Con) 50
Alan Langdon (Independent)47.

Tarleton
Anne Sutton (Con)1,369
Peter Langley (Lab)443.

Up Holland
Paul O'Neill (Lab)919
Jack Gilmore (Con) 662.

Wrightington
Pam Baybutt (Con)627
Bernie Green (Lab)341
John Puddifer (Green) 282.

Veterans' association selling special badges to mark D-Day anniversary

MEMBERS of Skelmersdale Veterans' Association are selling badges to celebrate the 75th anniversary of D-Day.

The association are marking the anniversary by working with Skelmersdale Action For Youth (SAY) and Skelmersdale Library. The badges will be on sale at different location across the town.

They are also commemorating the 749 American servicemen killed by 'friendly fire' off Slapton Sands in Devon during a rehearsal for D-Day called Operation Tiger. Because of the need for absolute secrecy the tragedy was not publicised and these servicemen were the first casualties of D-Day.

D-Day and the Battle of Normandy on June 6 saw more than 50,000 servicemen and women from Britain, the Commonwealth and America killed in a battle that would turn the tide of the Second World War.

To highlight this story and to launch the D-Day 75 commemorative campaign, the veterans have made 749 pairs of Bootprints and are asking members of the public to leave a message on each one. They will be on display at Skelmersdale Library on Tuesday, May 28 and there will also be a Silent Soldiers display.

The displays will then move to Woodland School where the veterans will also be showcasing their memorabilia.

Chairman, Alan Lewis, said: "The 'There But Not There' campaign encourages you to walk in the bootprints of those servicemen and women who gave their lives in this extraordinary battle. The veterans will be dressed in re-enactment uniforms with different ranks from the Second World War and later conflicts and we are inviting residents to bring the kids down and have their photograph."

Members of Helping Hands with the cheque they have received.

£10,000 'helping hand' for voluntary group

A SKELMERSDALE-based voluntary organisation for the over-55s has received a donation of £10,000 from the National Lottery Community Fund.

The Helping Hands group will use the money to support their Hot and Tasty Teas sessions .

The sessions are held on the second and fourth Monday of the month at the Lambourne Community Lounge in Ashurst where people can get a hot meal and make new friends.

Karen Tilley from Helping Hands said: "We would like to thank the people of the National Lottery Community Fund for the donation and also everyone who supports Helping Hands."

Among the activities which the group organises at sheltered schemes, community centres and other various venues around West Lancs are senior lunches, evening social events, tea dances, chair yoga exercises, dinner clubs and day trips.

A spokesperson for the group said: "Through continuous funding we are able to support the over-55s in our local community, giving them the chance to meet other people.

"This is promoting independence and helps to reduce isolation and improve health and wellbeing."

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Beauty salon staff join forces with hospital unit to mark first Neonatal Mental Awareness Week

THE Neonatal Unit at Ormskirk has taken part in the first national Neonatal Mental Health Awareness Week aimed at raising awareness, sharing best practice and inspiring change.

Neonatal Ward manager, Karen Wareing, said awareness was growing about the lasting impacts on families who have had a baby in a neonatal unit, but added: "It's also important to acknowledge that it's not only the families who are affected.

"The work required on a neonatal unit also has an impact on the teams caring for those families.

"We need to support the immediate and longer term impacts on the mental health and emotional well-being for families and the people who work with them."

The week was filled with daily activities including goody bags for mums and dads, a coffee and chat afternoon, activities for siblings and visits from therapists at the Beauty Barn in Ormskirk and Lavender Cove in Burscough who gave hand, arm and feet massages to families and staff.

The therapists have also volunteered to go back once a month to provide massages for families and the coffee and chat will continue as part of the unit's programme to support families.

The 'peaceful room' will also be available for families and staff to provide a relaxing space for 'time out' moments.

Top: Staff from The Beauty Barn who took part in the Neonatal Mental Health Awareness Week activities at Ormskirk Hospital.

Above: Members of the Lavender Cove team and staff from the hospital's Neonatal Unit.

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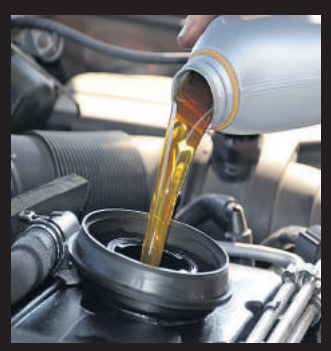
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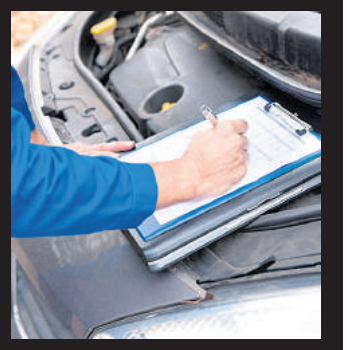
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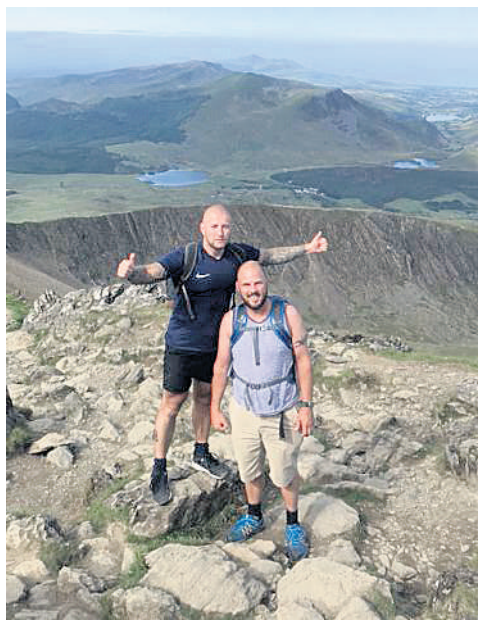
Work pals to walk Hadrian's Wall for cancer charity

Pair vow to give 'blood, sweat and tears' to complete 87-mile trek

Report by **Danielle Thompson**



Skelmersdale dad Simon Carpenter (right) and pal Ste Dodd will walk the length of Hadrian's Wall for charity.

TWO work colleagues are swapping their pharmacy wear for hiking gear to trek across Hadrian's Wall for charity.

Simon Carpenter, a 49-year-old dad-of-two from Skelmersdale and his friend Ste Dodd, 38, from Southport, will be walking 87 miles from Wallsend on the east coast to Bowness-on-Solway on the west coast from Friday, May 31 to Sunday, June 2.

The pair, who work for online pharmacy, Chemist 4 U, are taking only rucksacks and sleeping bags - no tents - and hope to raise at least £2,000 for Clatterbridge Cancer Charity for patients and research at Clatterbridge Cancer Centre on the Wirral.

Ste Dodd said: "After cancer touched our families very closely in 2018, we started planning our next fundraiser, but this time having the money go directly to the Clatterbridge Cancer Charity which is very personal for us. It's a great place which provides brilliant care from its wonderful staff. We want to give a bit back for the exceptional care that they provided for our families.

"We are taking to the outdoors and braving the hills and terrain of England by walking the old Hadrian's Wall - all 135km of it. Come wind, rain or shine we will complete it!

"It's a mammoth task. I only started walking last year and had never walked more than a few miles over a day. This challenge is going to be blood, sweat and tears - which is how a serious fundraiser should be!

"We want to enable Clatterbridge to keep offering new and advanced treatment to us all - that would be fantastic. It is such an amazing place and they deserve all the help they can get to keep moving on and saving lives."

To sponsor the pair, visit justgiving.com/clatterbridgehike.

Some of the staff and pupils at West Lancs Community High School involved in the fundraising.

£6,000 boost for school's Multi-Use Gaming Area fund

STAFF and pupils at West Lancs Community High have been taking part in the Rock FM Cash For Kids competition in a bid to raise funds for a Multi-Use Gaming Area at the school in School Lane, Skelmersdale.

Among the varied events they have held are a chocolate bouquet raffle; Glowericse classes with DJ Koyle taking time out of his busy schedule before heading off to Ibiza for the summer; bake-offs; a coffee afternoon; grand raffles with the main prize a mini-break at a cottage with a hot tub in Coniston; and bingo.

The school was competing against eight others from across Lancashire aiming to try and raise £2,000 over a fixed period with the radio station pledging to match that total if they were successful.

A further £1,000 cash donation was up for grabs to be shared out between four of the schools if they could prove they had made attempts to meet the 'strict' criteria.

Pupils Mya Lloyd and Lennon Morris along with their parents Janet Lloyd, the school's PTA chair and Michelle Morris, t PTA press officer, went along to the radio station for the announcement of how much everyone had raised.

And they were delighted to find that the school had their £2,000 matched and were granted a further £250 for their PR coverage of the competition bringing the final total to £6,049.99.

Sharon Thorpe, higher level teaching assistant and PTA secretary at West Lancs Community High School, said: "We are thrilled with the outcome and very grateful to have been involved in the competition. The money raised will be going towards purchasing and installing a Multi-Use Gaming Area for our pupils with special needs/conditions and disabilities."

Lord Lieutenant visits West Lancs Ark

STAFF and volunteers at a Skemersdale-based community interest company played host to a special guest when the Lord Lieutenant of Lancashire, Lord Shuttleworth paid a visit.

West Lancs Ark in the Ecumenical Centre in Northway has an 'open door' policy working with a wide variety of clients, including the homeless, unemployed, ex-offenders or substance misusers. ex-offenders, offering free assistance and support.

Lord Shuttleworth is pictured above (4th right) with officials and volunteers during his visit.

Call to 'get creative' for Well Skelmersdale blog

LOCAL residents are being invited to submit stories, poems or any other ideas they would like to appear on the Well Skelmersdale blog.

A social movement which encourages the town's residents to lead healthier and happier lives, the Well Skelmersdale blog can be found at ,https://wellskelmersdale.wordpress.com/.

Now organisers of the group are opening up the blog to local budding writers and anyone else interested.

Spokesperson Marji Ridgley said: "Well Skelmersdale is delivered by local people for local people and has been working for the last few years to create better conditions in which to live, learn, and work to improve health in the town. This opportunity to contribute to the blog is really exciting and we encourage anyone with anything to say to get in touch."

To submit something to appear on the blog, email hello@wellskelmersdale.org.

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BLACKPOOL	President	£99.95	£99.95	£99.95	£99.95	£99.95	£129.95	£129.95	£129.95	£129.95	£129.95
BOURNEMOUTH	Bay Majestic	£124	£135	£135	£135	£135	£229	£229	£229	£229	£229
EASTBOURNE	Bay Majestic	£94	£109	£109	£109	£109	£179	£179	£179	£179	£179
GREAT YARMOUTH	Bay Carlton	£94	£100	£100	£100	£100	£169	£169	£169	£169	£169
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SCARBOROUGH	Royal	Sold Out!	£179.95	£179.95	£179.95	£179.95	£199.95	£229.95	£229.95	£229.95	£229.95
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Ormskirk Parkrun passes 50,000th runner milestone

ORMSKIRK Parkrun achieved a major milestone on Saturday, May 4 when its 50,000th runner crossed the finishing line!

Since its first 5km event on March 29, 2014, a total of 50,181 parkrunners have now clocked up in excess of 250,000 kilometres in more than 260 parkruns - come rain, wind or shine.

The 50,000th finisher was Eve Kapoor, a visitor from Widnes Running Club who was on her first visit to Ormskirk Parkrun. She finished in 110th position out of 291 participants.

Parkrun volunteer Caroline Hendra presents Eve Kapoor with her certificate for being the Ormskirk event's 50,000 runner.

Friendships

Regular parkrunner and volunteer, Caroline Hendra, commented: "It's astonishing to think how far we've travelled in the last five years.

"And maybe it was appropriate that we got to the quarter-of-a-million kilometre mark on 'Stars Wars Day' - while we've not run to the stars just yet, we are, collectively, now about two-thirds of the way to the moon and the new friendships I made back in 2014 are long-established ones!"

May 4 is known as Star Wars Day because of the words spoken in the film series, 'May the force be with you'

Parkrun, a free weekly 5km event, was founded by Paul Sinton-Hewitt CBE in Teddington in 2004 and now takes place in 20 countries. The founder's misson is to create a healthier and happier planet.

Ormskirk Parkrun takes place every Saturday starting at 9am at Edge Hill University, where runners and walkers of all ages and ability can enjoy health-promoting exercise within a social community.

A junior parkrun of 2km also takes place at Skelmersdale, starting by the Nye Bevan Pool, at 9am, every Sunday morning, and is open to children (and accompanying adults) from four to 14 years.

To find out more about the parkrun and to join see website www.parkrun.org.uk.

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Medieval Festival returns to Coronation Park

Two-day extravaganza offers a chance to step back in time and experience local life 900 years ago...

THERE is another chance to step back in time and find out what life was like in West Lancashire 900 years ago when the Ormskirk Medieval Festival returns to the town's Coronation Park.

The fabulous two-day extravaganza on Saturday and Sunday, May 11 and 12 will give visitors the chance to experience the sights, smells, sounds and tastes of Norman England and see two armies from that era clash!

West Lancashire Council's parks and countryside service has organised the fantastic free event where 12th Century re-enactment group Historia Normannis will take you on a journey through time.

Battle and combat display by 12th Century re-enactment group Historia Normannis will once again be among the many themed events and attractions at the Ormskirk Medieval Festival at Coronation Park.

Exciting

Over the weekend the park will come alive with fabulous medieval-themed activities, entertainment and displays for people of all ages to enjoy between 11am and 4pm on both days.

Similar events held in previous years were hugely successful with thousands of people attending.

Heidi McDougall, the council's director of leisure and environment, said: "Once again some wonderful displays and activities have been lined up which will make the Ormskirk Medieval Festival a great treat for all the family. So make sure you come and enjoy this fantastic event."

Members of Historia Normannis will do battle in exciting combat displays and tournaments, while visitors can try on the armour, take a closer look at the weapons and how they're made or even try their hand at archery.

Everyday life in the 12th Century will be featured with medieval cooking demonstrations and a 'fashion' show to display the different styles of dress of the times.

There will also be displays of medieval craft and several other medieval-themed activities and stalls are being planned for the day.

A range of refreshments will be on sale and there will also be donkey rides, face painting, children's rides, and a giant bouncy castle.

'Tornado' caught on camera over Banks

A 'tornado' was caught on camera circling over Banks!

Fred Widdup from Southport, spotted the twister-like cloud formation on Tuesday, April 30 at around 11.30am.

He said: "I had just left my flat when I heard a whistling sound in the distance. I turned to see what it was and managed to get a photo on my mobile phone.

Disappeared

"The funnel rose to the cloud above it and disappeared. It was all over - from first seeing it to finish - in about a minute-and-a-half.

"I have lived in the area for 20 years and this is not something you see every day!"

A Met Office spokeswoman told the Champion it is not clear whether what Fred saw was a tornado or a funnel cloud. If the cloud touched the ground it was a tornado otherwise it was a funnel cloud.

She said that tornadoes and funnel clouds are not that uncommon in the UK but as they are relatively small, localised features they are not very often recorded."

The 'tornado' - or possibly a funnel cloud - seen over Banks.

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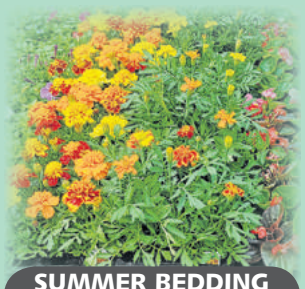

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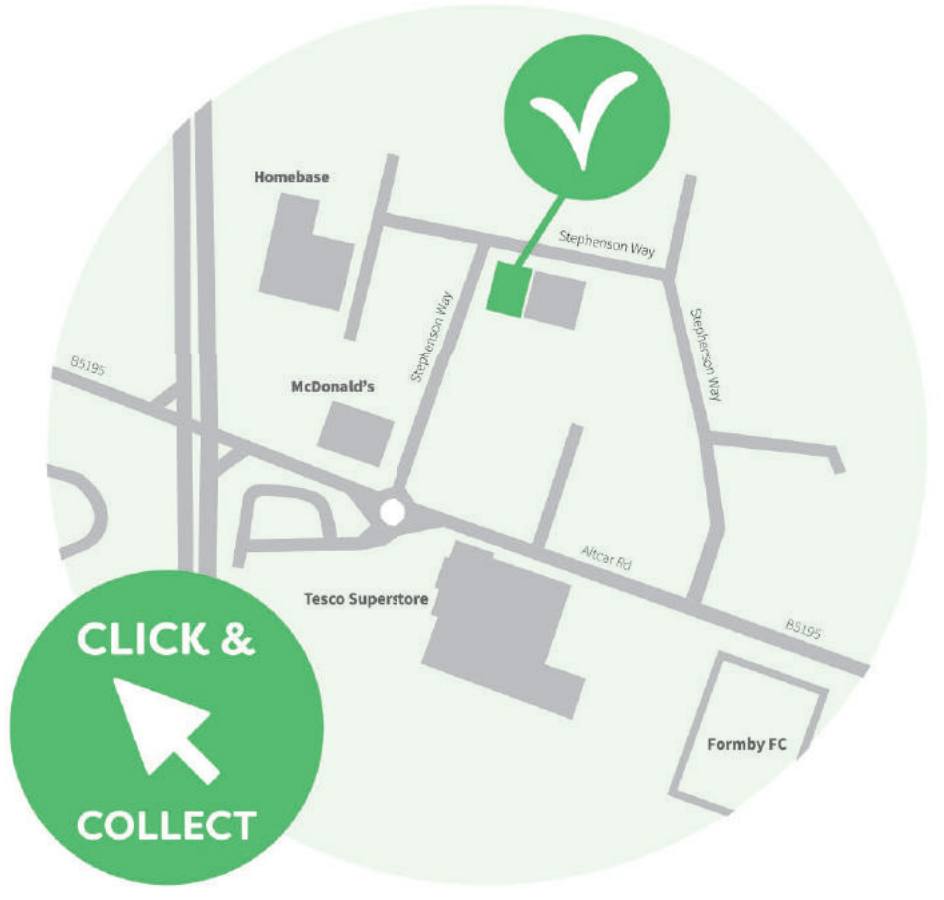

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MP backs campaign to re-nationalise water companies

Report by **Henry James**

ROSIE Cooper is backing a campaign to re-nationalise the country's water companies.

The West Lancs MP signed an Early Day Motion (EDM) in Parliament calling on the Government to bring the English water companies back into public ownership as soon as possible.

The campaign by We Own has attracted support from more than 50 MPs from across the political specturm - including front benchers who cannot sign EDMs.

We Own It says that since water was privatised in 1989, bills have increased by 40% in real terms and claim that public ownership would save each household in England £100 a year.

Rosie Cooper said: "Privatisation of our water industry has been a disaster - such a vital service cannot be left up to private companies to exploit for profit. Our bills should be going towards improving the service and investing in much-needed maintenance to reduce leaks, not to line shareholders' pockets."

United Utilities, the water company that serves West Lancashire, came close to issuing a hosepipe ban last summer to conserve water during the dry months, despite being responsible for 'wasting' 133 litres of water per household every day through leaky pipes.

Rosie Cooper says the privatisation of the water industry has been "a disaster".

The company's shareholders made £271m in dividends last year.

Campaigners also say that the water industry in England and Wales has built up a debt mountain of more than £50bn over the last 30 years, with the majority going directly to pay shareholder dividends, while any investment that the industry has made has been financed through customers' bills.

They claim this means that customers are paying on average £53 extra per year just to pay the interest on the debt.

'Profitable'

Ellen Lees, campaigns officer at We Own It, said: "83% of us want public ownership of our water industry - it's time to end the scandal of privatised water and make it work for us. Water is a profitable industry, so let's take that profit and re-invest it, instead of leaking it away to unaccountable shareholders."

Campaigners are holding a 'circus of privatised water' outside Parliament on Saturday, July 6 to mark the 30th anniversary of water privatisations.

The 'Splash Mob' event will aim to highlight the "failures" of the private water companies in the three decades since water was privatised and call for public ownership of water in England.

The GMB union and the Corporate Watch not-for-profit research and publishing group have revealed that the CEOs of nine private water companies have pocketed £58m in salary, bonuses, pensions and other benefits in the last five years.

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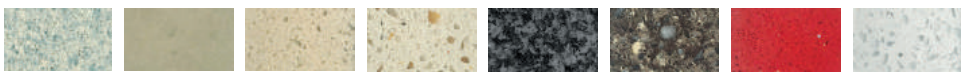

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Proudly displaying the total for their fundraising single are Molly, Millie, Keira, Maddie, Phoebe and Amy from CD Music Academy.

Young songsters hit the high notes for children's charity

A GROUP of talented young songsters from a West Lancs music school have raised more than £1,500 for a charity which aims to make dreams come true for children with critical illnesses.

The Kaleidoscope group from the CD Music Academy in Rufford, made up of girls aged eight to 12, raised the money for the Make-A-Wish Foundation by recording their own single.

The song - written by the school's principal and teacher Caroline Darbyshire and appropriately entitled *Make A Wish* - was then made available as a CD and for download online, and brought in a total of £1,577.21 for the charity which grants life-changing wishes for seriously ill youngsters.

Kaleidoscope promoted the single and the Make-A-Wish Foundation by singing on Radio Merseyside and Coast Radio, Southport, as well as performing at various events including at Christmas lights switch-on events at Skelmersdale and Formby.

Caroline said: "We would like to thank everyone who helped our Kaleidoscope girl group to raise £1,577.21 for Make A Wish Foundation, they had a fantastic time promoting the single."

Meanwhile the Kaleidoscope is now opening its doors to new recruits aged over six and Caroline says that there are another two more original songs ready to record once they have enough members.

Anyone interested in enrolling their child can email cdmusic@talktalk.net or call 07970 896 943 for more details.

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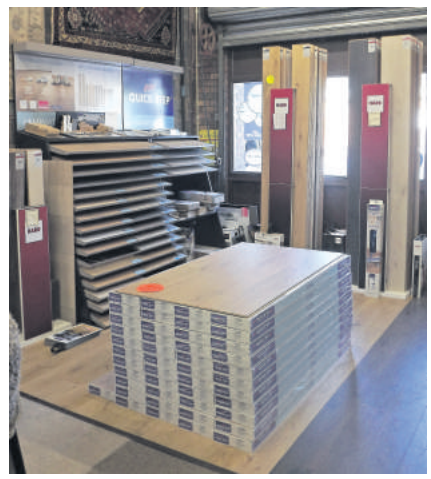
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Professor says acupuncture and laser treatment has succeeded where two NHS and two operations failed

Academic hails 'amazing' alternative therapy clinic

AN academic is hailing the work of an alternative therapy provider in Ormskirk who, he says, has eased the pain of a long-term debilitating condition that the NHS and two operations had failed to cure.

Dr Alan Hodkinson, associate professor in the department for Disability and Education at Liverpool Hope University, says he is now virtually pain-free thanks to the work of Dr Ambrose Michael who runs a private acupuncture clinic at the Feel Good Centre in Knowsley Road.

Report by **Kenny Parker**

Dr Michael, a former associate pain specialist at Ormskirk Hospital who is qualified in both Chinese and western acupuncture and a member of General Medical Council (GMC), British Medical Acupuncture Society, also uses low-level laser therapy which he says is useful for pain relief and healing.

Grateful patient Dr Hodkinson told the Champion he had suffered with debilitating pain from a condition known as sinus barotrauma for more than two-and-a-half years before and two operations on the NHS had failed to give him any relief from the pain which he rated at 8 out of 10.

Dr Ambrose Michael.

But since receiving a combination of acupuncture and laser treatment from Dr Michael, he says he has been virtually pain-free with the level now just 1 out of 10 at worst.

He said: "I came across Dr Michael after looking him up online and thought I would give it a go. The NHS treatment I have received has been OK but it has not sorted out the problem.

"But in a couple of treatments he has taken away the pain which I was struggling with for two-and-half-years despite two operations - it's really quite amazing. The pain before was debilitating and was affecting my home and work life."

Following the success of his treatment Dr Hodkinson says he has now been treated with acupuncture for other conditions - dispensing with an inhaler he used for asthma and finding relief for a stomach condition, leading to 75% reduction in the medication he takes.

He added: "I still have to pinch myself and wonder how does this work? The NHS had been going at this stomach condition for 15 years - he just put a few needles in and I am in a different place completely."

Dr Michael says he became interested in alternative therapies as a result of observing the side-effects affecting patients taking medication for prolonged periods. Among other remarkable results he says he has seen are a man who was healed of a burn from hot oil after two weeks and another whom he is currently treating for a leg ulcer who had been on medication from the NHS for three months and is now showing signs of healing.

He also claims to have treated a former Liverpool FC player for back pain.

However, he is keen to stress that though he deals with patients who have undergone NHS treatment, it is important that people seek treatment through their GP and normal channels in the first instance and should always consult with their doctor before investigating alternative therapies.

The Feel Good Centre was set up in 2007 by the late Dr A. K. Varma, who had a GP practice in Stanley Street, Ormskirk until retiring in 2006,

Acupuncture and Low Level Laser Therapy are available on the NHS, although access is limited.

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ADVERTISING FEATURE

LOTS GO SKY-HIGH AT YORKSHIRE AUCTION HOUSE'S FIRST SALE

Several lots made headline figures at Elstob & Elstob's inaugural auction that took place at Bedale Hall, North Yorkshire, on Sunday 24 March, including a rare Roman ring dating from the 2nd to 4th century. Comfortably reaching its price estimate of £5,000, the ring incorporated an oval carved intaglio depicting the Greek heroes Achilles and Patroclus and was set within a heavy mount of coiled metal on a textured metal band.

Many items soared way above their price estimates, including a silver and enamel Kovsh – a traditional drinking vessel or ladle from Russia – that sold for ten times its guide price of £300 - £500, with a hammer result of £5,000. Similar results were seen in the sale's collection of fine furniture. A handsome William IV mahogany partners' writing desk with leather-inset top valued at £200-£300 made a surprise sale at £3,400.

The sale's fine art section also yielded some top results with an oil painting by Alfred Hitchens (1861-1942) entitled 'House of Cards' being knocked down for £6,000, way above its estimate of £1,500-£2,500. Another painting by Brian Shields 'Braaq' (1951-1997) depicting an industrial town scene in the snow sold nicely within its price estimate for £5,500.

"We were astounded by the results achieved at our first sale which showcased over 800 high quality and exciting lots," said Director and Auctioneer David Elstob. "The Hall itself was packed and hundreds of people lined up to bid on the Internet or via the telephone. This level of interest and the exceptional standard of the lots themselves certainly led to some phenomenal prices."

Elstob & Elstob was set up in January this year by husband and wife team David and Beth Elstob in order to provide a focal point in the North of England for buying and selling high-quality antiques, fine art and jewellery. The auction house has ten specialist departments supported by a team of top-level specialists who have held senior posts at institutions such as Sotheby's, Bonhams and Doyle in New York. For further information about the sales and services provided by Elstob & Elstob, please call 01677 333003; email: info@elstobandelstob.co.uk or visit: www.elstobandelstob.co.uk

A Roman Ring from the 2nd-4th century excited interest in Elstob & Elstobs' inaugural sale.

Elstob & Elstob hold their inaugural sale at Bedale Hall, North Yorkshire.

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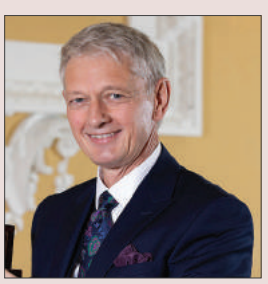

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Champion LETTERS to the Editor

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tel 01704 392 400 email editor@champnews.com

Changes to Local Plan need to tackle fundamental flaws

APPARENTLY there are to be significant changes to the Local Plan. Any new Local Plan will "be designed to put West Lancashire's needs first" including "a significant reduction in housing numbers and reduced impact on the Green Belt" (Councillor John Hudson, Champion February 20).

However, it appears that the requirement for huge areas of Green Belt /prime agricultural land is staying in the plan and that the numbers will remain the same, based around the 'main settlements' outlined in the Local Plan released last year. This is not on.

John Hodson and other members of the borough need to listen to West Lancashire residents, including our own Member of Parliament, and really put West Lancashire's needs first.

According to Rosie Cooper, she is pleased that large elements of this unwanted 30-year Local Plan are to be scrapped - "It would be foolish to press ahead with allowing development to take place on land we may very well need to provide our own food supplies . . . it may even be time to abandon these plans altogether and go back to the drawing board" (Champion, February 20). I entirely agree.

No doubt many hours were spent on preparing the Local Plan. However, even a well-financed document can have fundamental flaws. An example is the lack of forethought regarding the original proposed housing adjacent to Altys Lane. This would affect water run-off into Sandy Brook/Hurlston Brook and seriously exacerbate potential flooding in the future.

Potential future flooding at Hurlston Brook is another point highlighted by Rosie Cooper (Champion, April 24).

Chris Bowman, Ormskirk resident.

Current parking rules at Concourse are useless for a working shopping centre

THE parking rules at the Concourse are absolutely useless for a working shopping centre.

If I park in the morning, go to the bank and leave again after just 20 minutes I have to stay away for two hours or I will get hit by the 'no return in 2 hours' rule.

Pop back again later that morning for another 15 minute visit to pick something up from Argos? No fear - it breaks the rules!

I rang the Concourse and asked about this and pointed out how stupid it was. They replied: "Oh, we don't prosecute in situations like that."

How very kind of them - NOT! This is a shopping centre, people need to be able to come and go, pop in and out, without fear of getting a nasty letter.

By all means find a way that stops people who work in the Concourse or nearby from blocking all the parking spaces all day but don't drive away the very people whose shopping and business keeps the place going.

William Hite, Skelmersdale.

We can all play a part in helping to save the planet

IT makes me angry and sad that although we humans know the terrible damage we are doing to our environment, we still seem to do very little to change things!

Shops continue to sell (and we continue to buy) goods which are unnecessarily packed in plastic and cannot be recycled.

We throw our plastic bottles on the floor and litter our streets and eventually our oceans (and moan there's not enough bins and 'someone else' should pick it up for us - even if it is right outside our own front garden!

We cover our gardens with concrete and plastic grass and then wonder why we don't see many birds or bees etc.

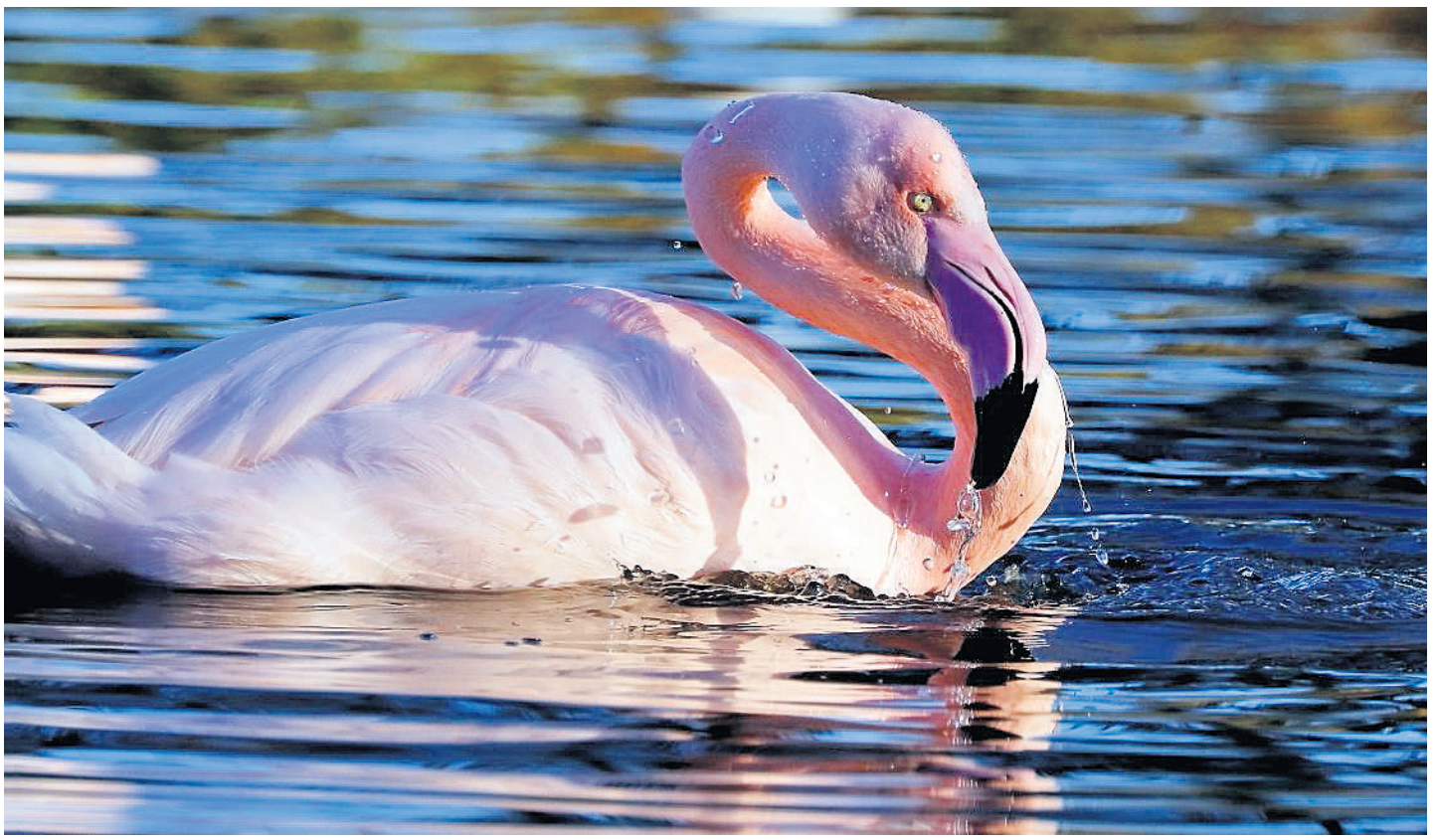
We drive our cars when we could very easily walk and then complain about our: overcrowded roads; decreasing green spaces; air pollution; being overweight and our over-stretched National Health system!

These stupid and selfish behaviours are the causes of many of the huge problems that are killing our planet and ourselves. But we all have the power to make the small changes that collectively will help make a huge difference... all it takes is the will to find out how, and take action.

There are many websites which can help us all to look after this beautiful planet of ours such as www.wwf.org.uk/ thingsyoucando.

Chris Roscoe.

PICTURE of the week



THIS stunning close-up of a swan at the Martin Mere Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust centre at Burscough was submitted by reader Alexander Finnie from Tarleton.
To submit a photo to be considered for our Picture of the Week slot, simply email it to editorial@champnews.com. And don't forget to include your name, the area you live in and brief caption details.

Drop us a line...

IF you've got a view on a topic of local or national interest which you would like to share with the readers of the Champion, why not drop us a line?

Letters can be posted or emailed to the respective addresses listed at the top of this page. They should be concise, preferably no more than 350 words, and include the sender's name, address and contact details, although not necessarily for publication.

Correspondents preferring not to have their name and/or their address published may provide a suitable nom de plume.

The editor reserves the right to edit all items submitted for favour of publication.

■ PLEASE note: All views and opinions expressed in letters to the editor are solely those of the authors.

Council chiefs accused of ignoring traders' concerns

Report by **Henry James**

A LONG-serving councillor has accused West Lancs Council chiefs of showing a lack of interest in the needs of the borough's retailers.

Our West Lancashire's Councillor Adrian Owens made the remarks after claiming that the council leader had ignored a request to meet with independent retailers from the Concourse in Skelmersdale.

However council leader, Councillor Ian Moran said that no retailer had contacted him directly and a spokesman for the council said it remained "ambitious" for the local economy while regularly supporting local businesses.

Cllr. Owen said that independent retailers had approached him for a meeting over their concerns about the authority's plans for Skelmersdale town centre.

He commented: "The health of our shopping centres is a vital concern to local residents and it is astounding and very disappointing that the council leader won't meet with local businesses that bring employment and variety to our centres.

"Unfortunately, this is a pattern with this council currently. I've also had reports of several small retailers feeling their concerns were dismissed at the recent Ormskirk town centre meeting."

"The priorities of the council are wrong. In recent weeks the council's Twitter Feed has promoted the £30 green waste bin scheme EIGHT times but not once tweeted support for local retailers.

"Worse, the council-run Discover Ormskirk Facebook Page which exists to promote Ormskirk town centre has posted only once in the past two months and even then it didn't promote Ormskirk!"

"The council's agenda for our town centres seems very one-dimensional currently. Our town centres will only thrive through fully-co-ordinated efforts that recognise that shops must continue to play a vital role in ensuring vibrant town and village centres."

In response, Cllr. Moran said: "I'm glad to see Cllr. Owens is now concerned about Skelmersdale - he wasn't so concerned when he closed down Skelmersdale Sports Centre or took council jobs out of Skelmersdale to Ormskirk!

'Amibitious'

"If any resident or retailer wants to contact me, please email me directly or speak to their local councillor. No retailer has contacted me directly so far.

"I didn't respond to Cllr Owens as some of the independent retailers were standing in the local elections and I was not prepared to enter into any political stunts set up by Cllr Owens."

And a spokesperson for West Lancashire Borough Council commented: "West Lancashire Borough Council is ambitious for the local economy and regularly supports and attends meeting with local businesses. The council organises the Ormskirk Town Centre Stakeholder event where businesses are invited to get involved, share their views and learn about events planned for the borough.

"Officers also attend the Ormskirk Business Action Group to support the plans that local businesses are developing and progressing and to receive any further feedback.

"The council supports the Discover Ormskirk social media platform to promote main events and it also provides a number of events, such as Google workshops, to help businesses promote themselves digitally.

"There is also a visual merchandising course planned for May for businesses who wish to maximise their window and visual display of their products."

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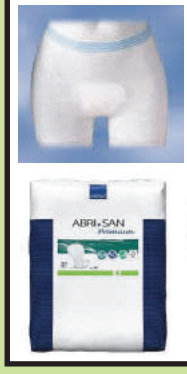

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Borough residents urged to minimise heart failure risks

WITH more than 14,000 people in West Lancashireliving with heart and circulatory diseases, local health chiefs are encouraging people to think about boosting their heart health as part of Heart Failure Awareness Week (May 6-12).

Heart failure is a long-term condition where the heart is not pumping blood around the body as effectively as it should. Typically, it is managed by lifestyle changes.

The most common symptoms are fluid retention (swollen ankles, legs and tummy), extreme tiredness and breathlessness, especially when lying flat.

Other symptoms can include a persistent cough, lack of appetite, weight loss and a high heart rate. If people are experiencing one or more of these symptoms, they should visit their GP.

As with many conditions and diseases, lifestyle choices are crucial and can impact someone's levels of risk of developing heart problems. Risk factors include smoking, diabetes, high blood pressure, family history, high cholesterol, weight and diabetes.

In West Lancashire, 63 per cent of adults are classed as overweight or obese, and more than 18,000 people have been diagnosed with high blood pressure.

Dr John Caine.

Dr John Caine, local GP and chair of the NHS West Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group, said: "Heart failure does not mean your heart stops, just that it is not working as it should.

"In West Lancashire, more than 1,250 people have been diagnosed with heart failure by their GP, but prevention is always best and there are clear risk factors associated with heart failure, many of which can be easily controlled with careful adjustments to lifestyle choices while boosting general health and wellbeing.

"The evidence is clear - we need to work together and educate people how to take control of their own health and minimise their risk."

Visit www.nhs.uk and search 'healthy body' to see suggested healthy heart tips, which include giving up smoking and getting more active. The NHS online resource has a top 10 health heart tips section.

Nick Hartshorne-Evans, founder of the Pumping Marvellous Foundation, the heart failure charity, added: "Heart failure is caused by many different reasons, from heart attacks, high blood pressure and diabetes to name a few.

"If you feel some of the signs and symptoms of heart failure like severe breathlessness, extreme fatigue and swelling in the ankles and legs, visit your GP, who following a simple blood test may refer you to a hospital for further tests. If it is thought you may have signs of heart failure you will then be referred to a heart failure specialist.

"It is important that if you have a diagnosis of heart failure, being on the correct medications with access to heart failure specialists and self-managing may mean you have a better quality of life".

To find out you can help raise awareness of heart failure search #suckalemonchallenge or visit the website: www.pumpingmarvellous.org.

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Hospital trust to host nurse recruitment event

SOUTHPORT and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust will be hosting another nursing recruitment event on Saturday, May 11.

This will be held in the Clinical Education Centre at Southport Hospital in Town Lane, Kew from 11am to 3pm.

Roles are available for band five registered nurses or student nurses soon to qualify.

Teams will be on hand to answer questions about different departments and what it is like to work the trust. Advice will also be available about career development and training and NHS Professionals will also be on hand for anyone looking for temporary roles with the nursing bank.

Interviews and advice will be available on a drop-in basis or you can apply online beforehand via NHSjobs and booked appointments will be confirmed.

The trust's Deputy Director of Nursing, Fiona Barnes, said: "We find recruitment events like this make the job application process easier for busy nurses or students who can just pop along for an hour or so and potentially go home with a job offer.

"And we are keen to talk to nurses in the area about the opportunities ahead."

For more information email penny.sinclair1@nhs.net or j.needham2@nhs.net.

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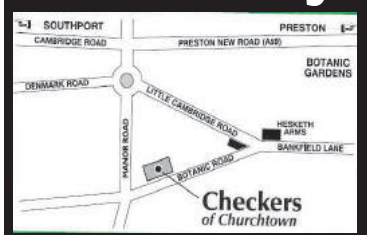

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Research by Edge Hill team could see pupils swapping classrooms for the beach!

Report by **Kenny Parker**

Pupils from St Jerome's Catholic Primary School, Formby enjoy a teaching session on the beach.

A TRIP to the beach could soon mean more than just summer holiday fun for some schoolchildren - thanks to research by a team of academics from Edge Hill University.

Following the success of the Forest School movement, introduced to the UK from Scandinavia in 1995, there is now a movement towards teaching and learning on the beach, which it's believed could prove beneficial for both pupils and staff, as well as the community in general.

Cait Talbot-Landers, senior lecturer in primary education at Edge Hill, is the founding member of a network of schools and organisations developing Beach School in the North West, along the Sefton and Fylde coasts, working alongside Dr Bethan Garrett and Louise Hawxwell from the university's faculty of education.

More interesting

Supporters of Beach School say that learning on the beach engages children and motivates them, enlivening the curriculum as they can learn anything from maths using pebbles, to English by using charcoal to write on driftwood or simply writing in the sand.

They also say it's great for emotional wellbeing as it awakens their imaginations, as well as providing them with a greater understanding of ecology and instilling pride in where they live.

Beach School is also said to be a more interesting way of teaching, enabling teachers to re-engage with the curriculum and think about it in a different way

A steering group has been formed from the network, representing voices from schools and Early Years settings, coastal landowners, environmental organisations and academics from the Department of Children, Education and Communities, who have been working together to devise principles to develop the way beach schools are practiced.

These include supporting subject knowledge and curriculum development, risk benefit management, developing engagement with ecological and conservation issues and identifying effective ecological practice for teaching on the coast.

Cait Talbot-Landers said: "As part of education programmes, [teaching] students are introduced to Beach Schools and receive practical training in the pedagogy associated with it, in order for them to be able to feel confident in being able to lead groups of children and young people on the beach.

"They work alongside their tutors and members of the network, such as the Sefton Rangers, Gems in the Dunes project and the National Trust, developing understanding of practical ecology and how to make learning across the curriculum more relevant, creative and enjoyable."

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Information evening for potential adopters

LANCASHIRE County Council are holding another of their information evenings for people thinking about starting or growing their family through adoption.

This will be held at County Hall in Preston on Tuesday, May 14 from 6 to 7.30pm.

Following a short presentation, members of the county council's adoption team, including social workers, will be available to answer questions, talk people through the process, and offer confidential advice.

Barbara Bath, head of the adoption, fostering, residential and YOT service at Lancashire County Council, said: "We need people from all backgrounds to offer a permanent home and family to children who are not able to live with their birth family.

"You must be over 21, and live in Lancashire or close by, but whatever your race, gender, sexuality, living arrangements, age or employment status, we want to hear from you.

"What matter to us are your personal qualities and that you are able to provide a loving home where you can support and look after a child throughout their childhood and beyond."

Adoptive parents are needed for children from young babies up to eight years of age, and particularly people willing to keep families together by adopting siblings. Brothers and sisters are among the children who wait longest to be adopted, as there are not enough people coming forward who are able to give them a safe, permanent and loving family.

Among the 100 Lancashire children currently ready to be adopted, there are 18 two-sibling groups, two three-sibling groups and one four-sibling group.

Barbara Bath added: "I'm hoping that we can encourage people to at least think about adopting two or more children. We keep brothers and sisters together whenever we can.

"For children who cannot be brought up by their own parents, those sibling relationships take on extra importance. In the midst of the trauma and losses these children experience, being placed with a brother or sister can be an important source of comfort and support, and give them the opportunity to grow up together.

Currently 100 children in Lancashire are ready to be adopted. Photograph posed by models.

"However, we know that adopting siblings might not be for everyone, and we still need adopters to come forward to look after children of all different ages and circumstances."

Adoptive parents are also needed to come forward for children from young babies up to eight years of age, and particularly for the following groups - children aged over four, of either gender; children with special needs, disabilities, or unpredictable medical issues; boys of all ages; mixed-heritage children of all ages.

Further details about the information evening and adoption in general are available online at www.lancashire.gov.uk/adoption or by calling the adoption team on 0300 123 6723.

There's no need to book for the adoption information evening, you can just turn up. Free parking is available on the Arthur Street car park, next to County Hall, and the Pitt Street entrance is accessible for disabled people.

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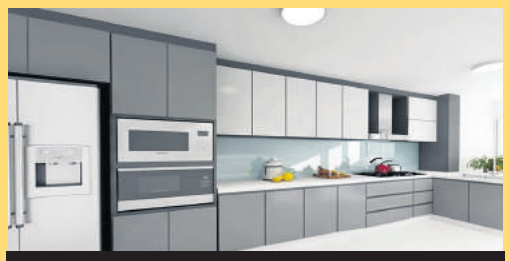

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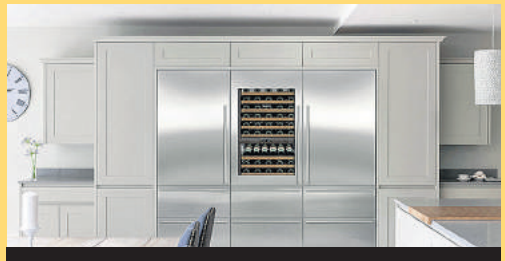

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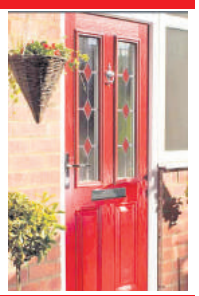
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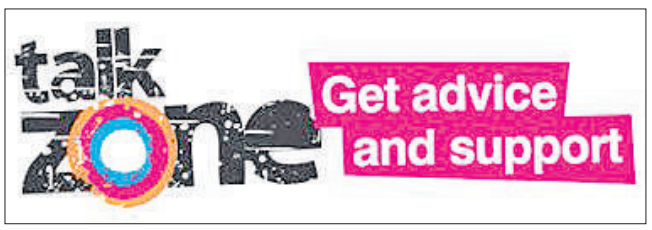
Report by **Henry James**



STUDENTS who are currently studying for their A-level or GCSE exams are reminded that help, support and guidance is available from Lancashire County Council's advice service, Talkzone.

Young people aged between from 12 and 19 can access this support by telephone, text, webtalk, email and Facebook.

It can also be accessed by any young person up to the age of 25 with a disability.

The Talkzone service is available from 2 to 10pm each day, including weekends and bank holidays.

Gaja Gannon, Lancashire County Council's specialist support officer, said: "I appreciate that this can be a very stressful time for young people. They may be feeling the pressure of exams approaching, with revision still to do.

"Through Talkzone, young people can speak with trained advisors in confidence and chat through their worries about exams, or about anything else that is worrying them.

"Staff are able to talk about a wide range of issues, which young people tell us they really appreciate, including feeling stressed.

Concerns

"I'd encourage any young person who is getting ready to take exams at the moment and is worried about them to contact Talkzone and chat their concerns through.

"Since it was set up 24 years ago, Talkzone advisors have responded to thousands of enquiries from young people on a huge range of issues.

"Whether the issue is large or small, Talkzone is available to help, so don't be afraid to call, text or contact us online."

The service is open from 2 to 10pm, every day of the year. Young people can ring on 0800 511111, text on 07786 511111, email talkzone@lancashire.gov.uk or visit www.facebook.com/LancashireYZ to talk about any issue that concerns them.

More information about Talkzone and young people's issues is available at www.lancashire.gov.uk/yps.

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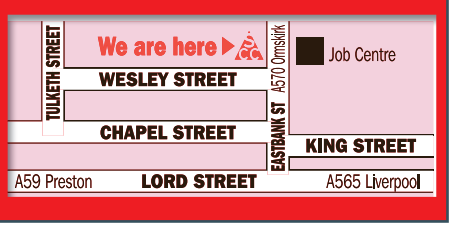

Residents reminded to sign up and pay for borough council garden waste collection service

WEST Lancs Council is reminding residents in the borough that they can sign up and pay for its chargeable garden waste collection service for 2019/20 via the website at garden waste.

To guarantee no interruption in service, residents who are currently subscribed should sign up again by Friday, May 17.

The cost of the service remains the same this year and further information including prices for additional bins is available online.

New customers can sign up at any time and purchase their brown bin online and have it delivered ready for their collections to start on June 3.

Residents who do have a brown bin and sign up are being asked to put their house number in the white square on the front of their bin to make sure it can be clearly identified and their subscription validated by the collection staff using the data on board the vehicle.

Heidi McDougall.

Heidi McDougall, the council's director of leisure and environment, said: "Spring is here and with summer just around the corner, many of us will be busy in the garden over the coming months.

"As well as enjoying the benefits of the service, residents who sign up and pay can also help minimise the amount of waste going to landfill and contribute towards protecting the environment."

Residents who are unable to sign up online with a payment card may wish to ask a family member to help or they can contact customer services to seek further advice and assistance on how to make a payment.

Those who decide not to use the service will be able to dispose of garden waste at household waste recycling centres, or compost it.

Historic church talk is back by popular demand

A TALK given earlier this year exploring the extraordinary history of a medieval church in West Lancashire proved so popular that it is to be repeated.

Churchwarden Stephen Henders' talk in March, entitled *The Mysteries and Curiosities of Halsall St Cuthbert's*, was over-subscribed.

Now by popular demand he is repeating the illustrated presentation on Thursday, May 30 at Halsall Memorial Hall.

The talk at the hall in Halsall Road will start at 7.30pm and tickets, priced £5, are available by phoning 01704841085.

People already on the waiting list will have priority but must phone to secure their place. Proceeds will go towards funding display boards for the church's 700th anniversary events next year.

Halsall St Cuthbert's is a Grade 1 listed building parts of which date back to the 14th century.

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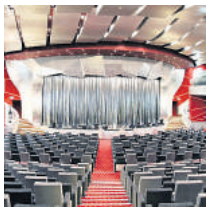
Champion READER HOLIDAYS



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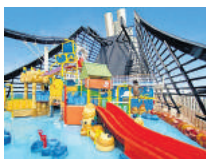

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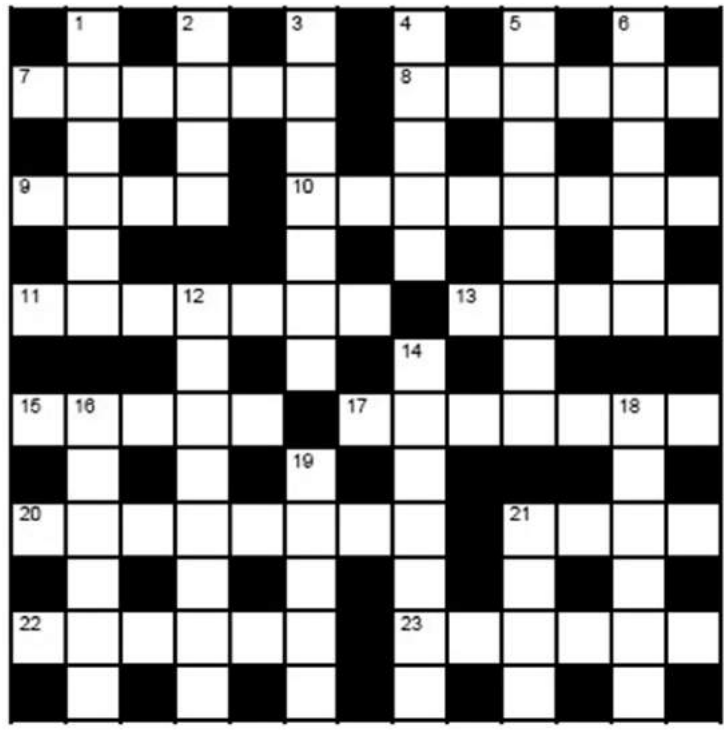

Last week's solutions:

Across: 7. April Fools' Day. 8. Stickler. 9. Crag. 10. Grammar. 12. Touch. 14. Botch. 16. Cathode. 19. Scud. 20. Mangrove. 22. Roller coaster.

Down: 1. Spot. 2. Sitcom. 3. Offload. 4. Sorry. 5. Psycho. 6. Balanced. 11. Root crop. 13. Rainbow. 15. Cuddle. 17. Harass. 18. Smart. 21 View.

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ACROSS

7. In a continuing forward direction; ahead (6)
8. Not damaged or impaired in any way; complete (6)
9. Idle (4)
10. Lacking humility or decency (8)
11. The largest land-mammal in the UK (3, 4)
13. Informal term for insolent or impertinent (5)
15. A sudden involuntary muscular contraction or convulsive movement (5)
17. Pardon; absolve (7)
20. Occurring at irregular intervals (8)
21. Having an affection or liking for (4)
22. Write (something) in a hurried, careless way (6)
23. Permeable to water or air (6)

DOWN

1. A person confined to an institution such as a prison or hospital (6)
2. Risque (4)
3. Counsellor; mentor (7)
4. 18th letter of the Greek alphabet (5)
5. Learning an academic subject for instance (8)
6. Fails to function properly; malfunctions (4, 2)
12. A state of disorganization or untidiness (8)
14. A pair of pincers or tweezers used in surgery or in a laboratory (7)
16. The office or authority of the Pope (6)
18. Relating to the veins (6)
19. Short description in verse or prose of a picturesque scene especially in rustic life (5)
21. Solid, unyielding (4)

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Animal sanctuary seeking homes for cats and hedgehogs

Charity is also appealing for donations to help fund care, treatment, food and shelter for unwanted or neglected animals

A WEST Lancs-based charity which aims to rescue, rehabilitate and rehome unwanted, ill-treated, abandoned or neglected animals is seeking new owners for cats and hedgehogs.

The team at Woodlands Animal Sanctuary in Sandy Lane, Holmeswood revealed that these are the two types of animals that they deal with the most - especially in the summer when they are inundated with abandoned or orphaned kittens, hoglets and juvenile hogs.

Kittens at Woodlands Animal Sanctuary awaiting a new 'forever' home.

Vulnerable

Sally McDerby from Woodlands said: "Babies, of any species and more specifically poorly babies, can carry a high financial cost.

"As an independent, self-funded charity, this time of year can stretch the sanctuary's purse strings to their limits.

"From the increased hours that are needed to care for these vulnerable, innocent babies, to the medication they often require, not to mention the usual food, water, shelter and bedding, along with routine medicines such as wormers and flea treatments, the costs of care for Woodlands can increase dramatically over the summer months.

"We are forever grateful to both long-standing and new supporters, who offer support all year round, from assisting at fundraising events, volunteering on site with day-to-day animal care, purchasing much-needed equipment, sponsoring one of the resident animals or buying items from the Ebay shop which all helps maintain the finances of the charity.

"However, it is over the coming months that the bills for medication and veterinary care really start to increase and Woodlands really need and appreciate any monetary donations that people can make – however small or big."

For more information, or to donate, visit woodlandsanimalsanctuary.org.uk

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Care home scores top marks in residents' survey

MANAGEMENT at a West Lancs care home are celebrating after being given a resounding seal of approval by residents in a national survey.

Aughton Park was given an Overall Performance Rating of 977 out of 1,000 in the Your Care Rating survey, conducted by market research company Ipsos MORI.

The national average was 882.

Now in its seventh year, the poll is the largest survey of care home residents in the country.

The home in Aughton Park Drive, Aughton, run by the Methodist Homes Association, provides residential and dementia care for the elderly.

Categories in the survey included Staff and Care, Home Comforts, Choice and Having a Say and Quality of Life with Aughton Park scoring a near-perfect 999 in the latter. It also scored 995 for Choice and Having a Say.

Manager, Nicola Ugurbascicek, said: "It's great that our residents value the care they receive at Aughton Park. All of our scores are positive which clearly demonstrate how we provide a great quality of life and care for our residents. While we're really pleased with our scores, we obviously want to get even better and the survey helps us do that by giving us direct resident feedback so we know where we have any areas to work on."

The survey was compiled with input from the care home operators taking part, as well as the National Care Forum and Care England.

Right: Residents and staff at Aughton Park Care Home.

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MONDAY

LYDIATE
Mersey Motor Boat Club
36 Pilling Lane, Lydiate L31 4HF
9am & 11am
Paula: 07484 263698

ASHURST, SKELMERSDALE
The Ashurst Centre, Lyndhurst
9am & 11am
Sue: 07817 444580

ASHURST, SKELMERSDALE
The Ashurst Centre, Lyndhurst
3.30pm, 5.30pm & 7.30pm
Sue: 07817 444580

MAGHULL
Cheshire Lines, Sefton Lane
(behind Fun Factor)
6.30pm
Michelle: 07883 159082

OLD ROAN
The Hope Centre (behind Tesco),
Aintree Lane
9.30am & 11.30am
Victoria: 07766 136641

OLD ROAN
The Hope Centre (behind Tesco),
Aintree Lane
5pm & 7pm
Victoria: 07766 136641

OLD SKELMERSDALE
The Cricket Club, Blaguegate Lane
5pm & 7pm
Paula: 07484 263698

TUESDAY

CHESHIRE LINES
Sefton Lane (behind Fun Factor)
5pm & 7pm
Sheila: 07827 335824

ORMSKIRK
Ormskirk Rugby Club, Green Lane
5.30 & 7.30pm
Tina: 0151 548 4266

OLD SKELMERSDALE
The Cricket Club, Blaguegate Lane
9am & 11am
Paula: 07484 263698

WEDNESDAY

MELLING
Melling Residents Community
Association(Ratepayers Club) Melling
5pm & 7pm
Katie: 07469 193445

MAGHULL
Cheshire Lines, Sefton Lane
(behind Fun Factor)
9.30am
Sheila: 07827 335824

ORMSKIRK
Ormskirk Rugby Club, Green Lane
9.30 & 11.30am
Tina: 0151 548 4266

MAGHULL
Cheshire Lines, Sefton Lane
(behind Fun Factor)
4.30 & 6.30pm
Emma: 07414 223 617

UP HOLLAND
UpHolland Methodist Church,
Alma Hill
9.30am
Sarah: 07969 395302

UP HOLLAND
UpHolland Methodist Church,
Alma Hill
3.30, 5.30 & 7.30pm
Sarah: 07969 395302

BURSCOUGH
Burscough Cricket Club, School Lane
3.30pm, 5.30 & 7.30pm
Kathy: 07815 199346

THURSDAY

AUGHTON
Aughton Village Hall, Winifred Lane
8.00am & 10.00am
Zoe: 01695 580 966

AUGHTON
Scout and Guide Hut
(behind Christ Church), Long Ln
5.30 & 7.30pm
Zoe: 01695 580 966

MAGHULL
Cheshire Lines, Sefton Lane
(behind Fun Factor)
5:00pm & 7.00pm
Sue: 07957 531346

DIGMOOR, SKELMERSDALE
Digmoor Community Centre,
Birleywood
9.30am, 11.30am
Sarah: 07792 146342

DIGMOOR, SKELMERSDALE
Digmoor Community Centre,
Birleywood
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MAGHULL
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(behind Fun Factor)
9:30am & 11:30am
Sue: 07957 531346

SATURDAY

OLD SKELMERSDALE
Greenhill Community Room
Beech Close(Off Lancaster Cres)
8am & 10am
Sarah: 07969 395302

ORMSKIRK
Ormskirk Rugby Club, Green Lane
7.30am & 9.30am
Tina: 0151 548 4266

ORMSKIRK
St Anne's School, Aughton Street
8.30am, 10.30am & 12.30pm
Sue: 07817 444580

MAGHULL
Cheshire Lines
Sefton Lane (behind Fun Factor)
8.30am & 10.30am
Gill: 07921 222405

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Activism is fine but not when it disrupts other people's lives

ACTIVIST is word which fills my heart with dread. I've nothing against any group of people who feel strongly about something - whether it be climate change, smoking, not wanting us to eat sausages - whatever.

But campaigning for (or against) something is one thing. Disrupting other folks lives, and often making them a misery, is something else.

I read in a newspaper last week that climate change activists are threatening to carry on their 'rebellion' after a meeting with Environment Secretary Michael Gove and other ministers, during which, apparently, he didn't accept their demands.

Personally I have little time for Michael Gove, but even less for a group of un-elected individuals who seem to think that they are right, so it's OK running around (though one, a 54-year-old lawyer, didn't get far as she glued herself to Shell Oils headquarters) expecting to get exactly what they "demand" without any consultation with anybody else to find out if there is agreement for whatever action they have in mind.

Now this group, 'Extinction' have been given credibility by Shadow Chancellor John McDonnell by inviting them to address the Shadow Cabinet, the Environment Committee and the Treasury Committee. So it seems that these days the best way to get whatever it is you want is to cause as much civil trouble as you can get away with - just so long as you are fighting a popular cause.

In particular though, I am genuinely concerned about the schoolchildren involved in this climate change activism. Quite apart from the fact that when I was at school no-one would even have thought of just walking out to take part in a spot of activism, the emphasis here surely is the word 'children'. I think I have mentioned this before, but when I was a teenager, I had this spiffing idea that all railway lines should be turned into busways. I wasn't alone in this misguided idea either - indeed Marylebone station and 10 miles of suburban railway track very nearly did indeed become a coach station and reserved coach route.

I don't think 'activists' glued themselves to anything on that occasion, but happily common sense won out in the end and the station remains a highly-successful railway installation to this day.

At least though the idea was feasible and popular with large sections of the population (though opposed virulently by others). But of course, this only applied if it were to be a dedicated busway. What I, and to be fair, others too, didn't consider was that to convert most railway track into a road of motorway standard, would be horrendously expensive - and these days polluting as well.

OK, I suppose I am becoming an old reactionary. And yes, I can see that young people should be given the chance to express their views. But the fact remains that if a person is considered too young to appreciate the dangers of smoking or drinking alcohol, then surely, before governments or putative governments start taking their views as necessarily sense and validating 'activist' anti-social behaviour they should give some credence at least to the simple (but true) fact that many of these activists might well have changed their opinions, or at least the method of achieving their object, within really a very few years.

Given that climate change is a fact of life and we must do what we practically can to halt or reverse it, reminds me of my comments about babies and bathwater a few weeks ago. It's all very well saving the planet, but surely it cannot be necessary to destroy the fabric of our lives while doing so?

Blocking thoroughfares, committing criminal damage and spoiling the day for thousands of fellow citizens is not the way to attract folk to your cause - to me it is a damned good way of turning people off it altogether.

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Jane Eyre is a 'tour de force' and has 'everything'

Review by **Ron Ellis**

Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte
SDC at Southport Little Theatre

THIS is a show that has everything. A superb, stately home set, a delightful children's choir, colourful authentic costumes and, of course, a strong storyline that still resonates with audiences 172 years after it was written.

Over the years, there have been many variations on theme for productions of Jane Eyre. It has been a musical, a Gothic Horror and a ballet; a play with only a cast of three and, at the National Theatre, staged amongst a conglomeration of ladders and climbing frames masquerading as the set.

Happily, director Margaret Mann favoured the traditional option, treating the novel as a Victorian love story and, from the moment the curtains opened to reveal the interior of a Victorian mansion with rows of children singing, we were immediately transported to another age and the ambience for the evening was set.

Willis Hall's adaptation of Charlotte Bronte's novel begins in Jane's early home in Gateshead, with the cruel Reed family; onto her days at Lowood School under the sadistic evangelist, Mr. Brocklehurst (David Davies), and eventually to Thornfield Hall where she works as a governess to the child of the master, Edward Rochester, (an impressive performance by Brendan Gillow).

Emily Bloom played the young Jane Eyre with great confidence before being replaced for her later years by Kerry Baratinsky who gives her a forthright and intelligent demeanour which soon attracts the attention of Rochester.

But Jane does not realise what secrets are hidden in Thornton Hall.

Marilyn Fletcher-Hill played Bassie, who protects Jane at Gateshead when bullied by John Reed (Guy Tatler), whilst Emma Wells-Hand was Miss Temple, her friend at Lowood.

At Thornfield Hall, Helen Bennett played the housekeeper, Mrs Fairfax, and Jacquie Wade was Grace Poole.

Other roles included Leslie Cheeseman as Briggs the solicitor, PJ Green as missionary Rev. St. John Rivers and Pat Simpkin as Lady Ingram.

Bertha Mason was heard but seen only fleetingly.

The tension built up relentlessly as events unfolded over no less than nineteen dramatic scenes before the emotional ending when Rochester and Jane meet again.

With a cast of twenty two adults and seven children, 'Jane Eyre' is a big production and the music, the set, the costumes, the direction and the acting were all a great credit to everyone involved.

A scene from Jane Eyre

This happened to be the 738th show I have reviewed in the last ten years and to only seven of those shows have I awarded 10 out of 10 stars.

Jane Eyre' is the eighth. Don't miss it!

Star Rating 10 out of 10. A tour de force.

UB40 complete the line-up for Aintree's summer season

UB40 featuring Ali & Astro complete the line-up for Aintree's summer season, headlining an open-air concert on Friday, June 14 alongside previously announced Madness on Friday, May 17.

People can expect to hear their favourite UB40 tracks including Red Red Wine, (I Can't Help) Falling In Love With You and Kingston Town alongside hits from their fresh take on reggae classics from album A Real Labour Of Love, which entered the UK charts at No.2 when it was released this time last year.

As founding members of Britain's biggest reggae band UB40, singer Ali Campbell and second vocalist Astro topped the UK singles chart on three occasions and sold 70 million records as they took their smooth, yet rootsy, musical blend to all corners of the globe. Since the band's inception 40 years ago, they have been nominated for multiple awards including both a Grammy and BRIT, and are one of the most commercially successful reggae acts of all time.

With a firmly 80s influenced line up for 2019, UB40 and fellow headliner Madness jointlyhold the record for most weeks spent by a group in the UK singles chart during the decade, with an astounding 214 each.

John Baker, managing director, Aintree Racecourse, said: "We are delighted to welcome reggae band UB40 to the home of the Grand National next June. They're sure to put on a great performance and we're looking forward to hosting a likely sell-out crowd at Aintree."

UB40

The Jockey Club Live concerts at Aintree Racecourse have over the past few years hosted thousands of fans of live music, with performances from artists including Craig David, Lightning Seeds, Jess Glynne and Kaiser Chiefs.

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Play offers 'a fine balance between comedy and pathos'

Review by **Ellen Campbell**

My Fairfield Lady
Liverpool Royal Court

WRITTEN by Liverpool Royal Court's executive producer, Kevin Fearon, and directed by Chris Mellor, the play is loosely based on My Fair Lady but without the songs.

Lizzie Ripon (Jessica Dyas), entrepreneur extraordinaire with a Wirral accent to match, is in her florist shop, mooning over her latest boyfriend, Higson (Danny O'Brien) to her colleagues, Steph (Helen Carter) and Robbie (Matthew Walker, who doubles as a doctor and a priest). Lizzie is hoping to interest Higson to invest in her business.

Meanwhile, in a hospital room, Higson's parents, Alf and Mary McDermott (Michael Starke and Julie Glover), who have been married for 40 odd years, are coming to their journey's end. They are thankful for their time together creating a business empire and are ready to hand over the reins to their son.

The problem is that Mary feels Higson has no business sense and needs to find a good Scouse lass to marry who will set him straight. Otherwise he is written out of her will. Higson convinces Mary he has the ideal girlfriend and will introduce her.

The fun begins converting Lizzie into a fully-fledged Scouser. Steph and Robbie take on the task. The high heels, the hair, the dress and the scouse accent transform Lizzie into the Scouse girl that Mary has set her heart on finding for her boy to marry. Will it be enough to convince her? Moreover, does Higson love Lizzie? Does Lizzie love Higson? Will Mary change her will?

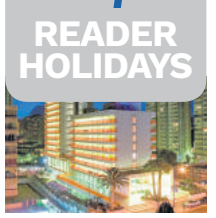
A scene from My Fairfield Lady

This play has all the right ingredients for success. It's laugh out loud funny but there are some very poignant scenes too which makes for a nice balance of emotions. It also sends out clear messages about the dangers of judging people at face value and the value of family ties.

The cubed set with illuminated backdrops of the city was outstanding and the transition backwards and forwards between florist shop, hospital room, family kitchen and cemetery was so smooth it was almost a performance in itself.

The show runs until May 25 and is well worth a visit.

Star rating 7 out of 10 A fine balance between comedy and pathos.



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★2 NTS Arrive Friday	★4 NTS Arrive Monday
17 May 6, 13, 20, 27 Sep 4, 11, 18, 25 Oct 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Nov	27 May 3, 10, 17, 24 Jun 1, 8, 15 Jul 5, 12, 19, 26 Aug
from £79.95	from £159.95

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★3 NTS Arrive Friday	★4 NTS Arrive Monday
24, 31 May, 7, 21 Jun 5, 19 Jul 2, 9, 16 Aug 6, 20, 27 Sep	27 May, 3, 24 Jun, 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Jul 5, 12, 26 Aug 2, 9, 16, 23 Sep
from £169.95	from £199.95

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Blackpool — Metropole Hotel

• Lift • Entertainment • Car Park (fee) • Seafront

DINNER, BED & BREAKFAST INCLUDED

★2 NTS Arrive Friday	★4 NTS Arrive Monday
31 May 7, 14, 21, 28 Jun 5, 12, 19, 26 Jul 2, 9, 16 Aug	20, 27 May 3, 10, 17, 24 Jun 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Jul 5, 12, 19, 26 Aug
from £79.95	from £149.95

3 nts Fridays also available from £99.95

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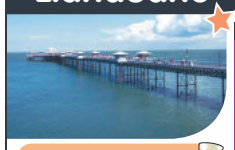
Llandudno — Chatsworth House Hotel



• Seafront • Lift • Car Park • Indoor Pool • Entertainment

DINNER, BED & BREAKFAST INCLUDED

★2 NTS Arrive Friday	★4 NTS Arrive Monday
17, 31 May 7, 14, 21, 28 Jun 5, 12, 19, 26 Jul 2, 9, 16, 30 Aug	20, 27 May 3, 10, 17, 24 Jun 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Jul 5, 12, 19, 26 Aug
from £99.95	from £159.95

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Jun 7		
Sep 20, 27		
Jun 14, 21, 28	£109	£129
Jul 5, 12		
Sep 6, 13		
May BH24, 31	£139	£169
Jul 19, 26		
Aug 2, 9, 16, BH23, 30		

4 NTS Arrive Mondays	1 BEDROOM APARTMENT SLEEPS UP TO 4	2 BEDROOM APARTMENT SLEEPS UP TO 6
May 20	£79	£109
Jun 3, 10		
Sep 23, 30		
Jun 17, 24	£99	£129
Jul 1, 8		
Sep 9, 16		
May BH27	£159	£199
Jul 15, 22, 29		
Aug 5, 12, 19, BH26		
Sep 2		

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Enjoy 2 delicious courses from chef's Monday Madness evening menu for only **£13.99**
also available Bank Holiday Monday 6th May

WEDNESDAY STEAK NIGHT

Celebrating the best of British beef & pork! Choose from one of our delicious steaks from **£10.99** ***A mid-week treat that won't break the bank***

WINE & DINE FISH FRIDAY

Choose 2 Main Courses from Chef's Special Fish Friday Menu & a bottle of wine from our exclusive selection
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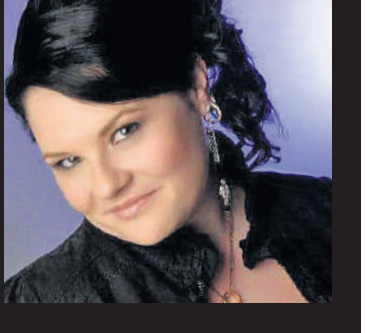
Friday 24th May with

Chelsea Steven

Little diva with a BIG voice with hits from the decades and genres



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HOLIDAYS & TRAVEL

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2 days only £99
*1 night Bed & Breakfast
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Wed 14th August
5 days £439
*4 nights DBB Empress Hotel
*Isle of Man Steam Railway
*2 full day excursions

Llandudno Weekend
Fri 14th June
4 days £239
includes:
*3 nights DBB
*Queens Hotel

P&O Mini Cruises Amsterdam
3 days (2 nights) £109
Sun 16th June
Sun 15th September
Tue 22nd October
Includes:
*2 nights on board ship
*2 berth inside cabin
*On board entertainment
*On board Casino/Cinema
*Day in Amsterdam
(Prices are per person based on 2 people sharing cabin)

Mamma Mia & Planet Hollywood
Thu 5th September
2 days only £129
*1night Bed & Breakfast
*2 course meal @ Planet Hollywood
*Theatre tickets Mamma Mia

WARNER BREAKS

LAKESIDE
Mon 27th May
5 days £289

LITTLECOTE HOUSE
Mon 10th June
5 days £399

ALVASTON HALL
Mon 15th July
5 days £379

CRICKET ST THOMAS
Mon 5th August
5 days £399

BODELWYDDAN
Fri 6th September
4 days £299

ALVASTON HALL
(Turkey & Tinsel)
Mon 4th November
5 days £319

BEMBRIDGE COAST
(Turkey & Tinsel)
Mon 18th November
5 days £299

BODELWYDDAN
(Festive Party Break)
Mon 25th November
5 days £319

THORESBY HALL
(Turkey & Tinsel)
Mon 16th December
5 days £309

May Day Excursions

Sat 11th	RHS Malvern Spring Festival *inc admission*	£37.00
Sun 12th	Emmerdale – The Village Tour *inc admission*	£44.00
Mon 13th	Ludlow Market & Church Stretton	£17.00
Wed 15th	Portmeirion & Betws-y-Coed *inc admission*	£28.00
Thu 16th	Frodsham Market & Dagfields Antiques	£14.00
Sat 18th	Haworth 1940's Nostalgia	£16.00
	The World Famous Bury Market	£14.00
Sun 19th	Shakespeares Stratford	£20.00
Wed 22nd	Brief Encounter & Leighton Hall *inc afternoon tea*	£30.00
Thu 23rd	Grange over Sands & Morecambe	£16.00
Sat 25th	Shropshire County Show *inc admission*	£27.00
Sun 26th	Buxton & Upper Peak Forest Canal Cruise *inc cream tea*	£33.00
Mon 27th	Cartmel Races *inc admission*	£31.00
Wed 29th	Black Country Living Museum *inc admission*	£30.00
Thu 30th	Llandudno	£15.00
Fri 31st	Blackpool	£14.00

PICK UP POINTS @ Formby, Ainsdale, Hillside, Southport, Ormskirk & Skelmersdale

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5.30am Onwards • Ample Parking
CARS - £10 • SMALL VANS - £12
• Transits - £16 • Trailers - Extra
Caterers • Ice Cream • Flushing Toilets
All rubbish & unsold goods to be removed by all the sellers
PAY ON ENTRY
Telephone: 07710 929927

See our Picture of the Week on page 16

BANKS BOOT SALE
EVERY SATURDAY
At Ralph's Wife's Lane, Banks, Nr Southport PR9 8ER
A565 Tarleton to Southport Road, turn at Small Banks Roundabout into Banks Road and we are 1/2 mile on left.
Pitches £10.00 per car - Transits POA

BURSCOUGH GIANT BOOT SALE
EVERY SUNDAY
& Mayday Bank Holiday Monday 27/05/19
NOW AT THE SHOWGROUND
Pippin Street, Burscough L40 7SP
On the A59 Tarleton to Ormskirk Road at the rear of Booths. Follow the signs to Burscough Industrial Estate.
Pitches £12.00 per car - Transits POA

BOTH VERY BUSY VENUES
QUALITY MEAT AUCTION - BURGER VANS - ICE CREAM - FLUSHING TOILETS
No need to book - just turn up - 5.30am - 7.30am Pay on entrance to site • Est 26yrs.
No food or drinks sales allowed • All unsold goods and rubbish to be removed by the seller
- ALL ENQUIRIES -
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burscoughgiantbootsale • Tel: 07710 929927 or 07831 123830

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Sunday 12th May • 7:30am-12noon
£8 per table inside & out
FREE Admission | FREE Parking | Refreshments Available
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Hall available for private hire

THE COTTAGE GARDEN SOCIETY
LANCASHIRE AND NORTH WEST AREA GROUP
PLANT SALE
at Lydiate Parish Hall,
288 Southport Road, Lydiate • Liverpool • L31 4EQ
on Saturday 11th May 2019 11.00am-3.00pm
Admission £1. Under 16's Free
• Old Cottage Garden Favourites • Specialist Plant Stalls
• Creative Craft Stalls • Refreshments
FOR FURTHER DETAILS & INFORMATION CONTACT
Tina Lloyd 01704 550154 or Peter Curl 01704 893713
Website: www.nwcgs.org.uk

THEATRES

BOS MUSICAL THEATRE COMPANY
60TH ANNIVERSARY
noda Be inspired by amateur theatre

Fiddler on the Roof

25th May - 1st June 2019

Little Theatre
HOGHTON STREET, SOUTHPORT
Advanced booking line 0333 666 3366 or at www.BOSmtc.co.uk
Box Office opens: 18th May 2019, 11am - 2.30pm daily 01704 530521

An Amateur Production by Arrangement with The Musical Company Ltd.

Maghull Musical Theatre Company

Maghull Musical Theatre Company
Presents

JESUS CHRIST SUPER STAR

At the LITTLE THEATRE, Southport
Lyrics by Tim Rice
Music by Andrew Lloyd Webber
Wednesday 12th to
Saturday 15th June 2019 at 7.30 pm
& Matinée Saturday 15th June at 2.15 pm

Advance Bookings to Betty & Graham 01695 632 372
Box Office opens 5th June
11.00 – 5.00 pm 01704 530 521

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BIKES

GIRLS TRIKE For small girl pink and cream £8 07741206449

ROOF BIKE RACK Cruz 940-005 new never used box a bit tatty £15 07833158506

BOYS BIKE Small boys bike in good condition a very nice bike £20 07741206449

LITTLE TRIKES Hippo 4 in 1 smart trike, excellent condiiton, £25 ono 01704 507464

GENTS BIKE apollo mountain bike, 26" wheels, 18 gears, good condition £45 07709 985027

RETRO BIKE Good make Shimnio, gears G.C £70 07564 223114

BOYS BIKE Small boys bike 12 inch wheels in good condition just no longer needed a nice little bike £15 07741206449

PEPPER PIG BIKE Small child's bike in good condition just no longer needed £10 07741206449

LADIES RALEIGH BIKE Maroon with Gel Seat Stand Rear Carrier Skirt Protector VGC £95 01519245550

UNISEX BIKE White planet concept bike in good condition, a nice, well made bike 24inch wheels 18gears suspension £40 07741206449

BIKE TRAILER Halfords double bike trailer, orange and grey with raincover, excellent condition, £45. Southport area. 07598 156445

BARRACUDA MOUNTAINBIKE 21 gears,26"wheels,unisex,dual suspension,18"frame,blue and white, good condition £65 07415183819

ELECTRIC BICYCLE Powabyke electric bicycle, suit Tall Gent 26" wheels, New Batteries in good working order, £200 No Offers. 07774418985

ELIFE ELECTRIC BIKE electric power assisted bicycle, only done about 40 miles, in good condition, like new £350 07449 537301

BIKES

ELECTRIC BICYCLE POWABYKE electric bicycle in good working order, brand new batteries, with charger, suit Tall Gent 26" wheels, £200 sorry No Offers 07774418985

CLOTHING

HUNTER WELLIES Size 9 Women Norris Field printed boots. Not been used. £50 01704573196

LEATHER JACKET Gents Black Leather Jacket. Good quality. Size large £45 07564 223114

LADIES CLOTHES dresses, trousers shorts tops size 8-10 may deliver £25 ono 01515263851

BOYS CLOTHING bundle age 8-9 years, approx 17 items including a coat, smoke free home. Southport area, £10. 07857650462

PROM DRESS Rose Gold Sequins on top half of dress silk long dress size 6/8 £200 o.n.o 07787323036

BOYS' CLOTHES GEORGE puffer coat 3-4 yrs, £5; MATALAN coat 4-5 yrs, £5; Regatta waterproof coat 7-8 yrs, £8 07598 156445

PURSUE TRAINERS Size 8/42. Black/Burgundy top black laces and white soles. In very good condition. £15 07931561650

NIKE TRAINERS Size 8/42.5 Flynit racer green black laces white soles. In good condition. £15 07931561650

VANS TRAINERS Size 8.5/42.5 721461 dark grey top black laces white soles. In excellent condition. £15 07931561650

MENS SUIT from Next, 2 piece light grey, ideal for proms night or wedding, only worn once, 36/38 chest, vgc £45 07788 602374

LADIES SHOES New Clarks shoes, navy blue size 6 1/2, small heel. Cost new £50 07387439004

GENTS SUIT New gents suit which still has labels on bought from Next, 36 inch waste, regular leg, jacket. £69 07387439004

BOYS CLOTHING bundle age 5-6 years, approx 20 items, including waterproof jacket, from a smoke free home Southport area £10 07857650462

BOYS CLOTHING bundle age 5-6 years, approx 25 items including coats, from a smoke free home. Southport area £10. 07857650462

ADIDAS TRAINERS boys red cloudform junior size 3 lace up trainers, in great condition from a smoke free home. Southport area, £10 07857650462

CTK UNIFORM CTK boys' blazer, suitable for Year 7/8, £5; 2xCTK Rugby shirts, suitable for Year 7/8/9-£5 each 07598 156445

ASIC TRAINERS Size 8/42 Gel-Evation orange top and laces black heels and white soles. Very good condition. £15 07931561650

PERSONAL

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• Established 15yrs
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CLOTHING

NIKE TRAINERS Size 7/41 Run all day grey tops and laces, green Nike ticks and white soles in good condition. £13 07931561650

SKECHERS TAUPE Size 5/38 slip-on shoes/trainers relaxed fit air-cooled memory foam. Breathe easy. Never worn. £20 07931561650

DRESS FOR proms or wedding, full length top, heart shaped with diamonds, only worn once, size 14, must see, £40 ono 07522 653917

CAMOUFLAGE JACKET waterproof, army issue woodland pattern, size 180/190 zip and velcro fastenings, attached hood, brand new £8 01704 874084

LADIES DRESS New Jacques Vert size 24, blue and green, nice for special occasion including wedding/races. Cost £189. Bargain only£60 07387439004

GRADUATION GOWN & cap (black). Top quality, won't crease. Will need your own hood. For graduate and court barrister use. £50 0151 9204835

GIRLS CLOTHES Large bundle over 50 items. Age 9-14 yrs. Excellent condition. Dresses, skirts, tops, leggings, coats etc. £50. 01704 821933

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CANON PRINTER Pixma MP600R printer, copier, scanner. Working with ink in original box. £30 01704573196

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ELECTRIC TOOLS Assortment, hardly used £80 07761 099887

BREAKFAST BAR Durapal quartz stone colour 01515261555

PROPANE BOTTLES One 6Kg full and one 3Kg containing some gas £12 +441704577206

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GARDENING

HEDGE TRIMMER Grizzly long reach £40 07922 133628

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COMPOSTER BIN large, with lid, pickup from Formby £25 07449 537301

CANTILEVER PARASOL with stand, used once as new £40 ono 07947 144728

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GARDEN GAZEBO 2.7 x 2.7, new still in box £30 ono 07947 144728

TRAILER 4' x 3', spare wheel, electrics £150 ono 01704 840076

TERRACOTTA POTS 6 Terracotta pots ideal for patio or veranda. Open to offers 01704 880525

LAWNMOWER Hayter Spirit 41 push petrol lawnmower as new £220 01704895308

USED FLAGS 2X2 flags used £2.50 each can deliver 07754823773

FIREWOOD Large bag of dry ready chopped firewood for barbecue, open fires, log burners etc. £10.00 01704 546978

BLOCK PAVING FREE approx. 500 bricks and 20 edging stones Aintree area must arrange own collection 07831 450828

PATIO FLAGS 100 buff coloured patio flags 2 x 2 and circle feature, free, must be removed asap 01695 420950

VINTAGE GARDEN spade and fork with lovely wooden handles about 80 years old £10 Ainsdale area 01704 579963

POTATO POTS 10 left, £2 each, will sell separately. Blackcurrant bushes, well established, £2 each 07590 336533

GARDEN FURNITURE quality Florida tete-a-tete (with terracotta parasol, bought for £99, will sell for £75 0151 5319741

BLAGON POND HOOVER with 2 brush heads, extension pole, and bag, used once £80 ono 07947 144728

LARGE POT One large glazed pot, suitable for shrub or standard Fuchsia. Offers 01704 880525

CORDLESS STRIMMER Bosch cordless Strimmer with charger and spare blades £20 07964 854427

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LAWN MOWER Black & Decker Stripe Master 13" cut Autostop rotary electric long lead & grass-box good working order bargain at £30 Ormskirk 01695574988

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HANGING BASKETS Nine hanging basket, garden feature, strong metal structure. new condition. Bargain £50 01695 731888

LAWN MOWER Snapper Jetvac with bag & side discharger.6 speed transmission, 21" cut, 5.5hp Briggs & Stratton engine. Good working order, fair condition £65 01704 880129

FEVERFEW PLANT Tanacetum parthenium, established, less than 1' high, pretty daisy-like flowers, hardy herbaceous perennial for a sunny spot. £2 each. 01695 578368

SAGE PLANTS Salvia officinalis 'Icterina' RHS AGM Award + Perfect for Pollinators, variegated green and yellow edible leaves, easy to grow. £2each 01695 578368

ORNAMENTAL TANSY Tanacetum vulgare 'Crispum', established, cute golden button-like flowers, companion plant for roses to discourage pests. Sunny position. £3 each. 01695 578368

HOBBIES

GILL NET approx. 30 metres £15 Ainsdale area 01704 579963

RIDING HAT Excellent condition size 6 3/4. £25. 07496074472

TENT 4-berth canvas frame tent. Kitchen area. Full instructions. £50 01695 571582(evenings)

CARD MAKER Two Accucut card making machine plus dies £150 0151 4769230

EVERTON BOOKS Ball, Grey, Forever Everton & David Weir £10 07802 638376

LIVERPOOL BOOKS Gerrard, Rush, Fowler, Rafa, Paisley in May £15 07802 638376

FISHING TACKLE Shakespeare reel, Floats, weights, Disgrorg. E.T.C £25 07564 223114

RIDING BOOTS Wessex leather girls/ladies riding boots, never worn. £15 07496074472

BODY PROTECTOR Flexair body protector, large child, hardly used.£30 07496074472

EAGLE ANNUALS 1984, 1985, 1986 in very good condition £6 for the three 0151 9281955

RUPERT ANNUALS five in very good condition £10 0151 9281955

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WALL PLATES Painted steam train wall plates. Nine different sets £20 for 4 set. £30 for 6 set. For more details 01704 227845

LADIES BIKE Northern Cascade Magna bike, ten speed Turquoise in colour. Good condition. Only £49 07387439004

LADIES BIKE Northern Cascade Magna bike, ten speed Turquoise in colour. Good condition. Only £49 07387439004

SHUBB CAPO brand new unused nickel finish, for acoustic or electric guitar+ free set of Daddario electric guitar strings. £15 07504888423

FAMILY TENT Hi-gear Gobi Elite 4 from Go Outdoors see website. Used 1 week only as new condition £175 Ainsdale area 01704 579963

COLEMAN AIRBED double size inflatable bed with electric and foot pumps. Used 1 week only as new. £35 Ainsdale area 01704 579963

STORAGE CABINET Very sturdy wooden cabinet on wheels, height 24 depth 18 wide 14, containing six strong trays, ideal for hobbyist £30 07387439004

STORAGE CABINET Very sturdy wooden cabinet on wheels, height 24 depth 18 wide 14, containing six strong trays, ideal for hobbyist £30 07387439004

MINICHAMPS MODEL 1:43 scale model of Damon Hill's 1998 Jordan Mugen Honda 198. Pristine. Never been out of perspex box. £20 01704 877594

MINICHAMPS MODEL 1:43 scale model of Jean Alesi's 1996 Benetton Renault B196. Pristine. Never been out of perspex box. £20 01704 877594

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MINICHAMPS MODEL 1:43 scale model of Mika Hakkinen's 1997 McLaren Mercedes MP4/12. Pristine. Never been out of perspex box. £20. 01704 877594

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CARAVAN AWNING N.R. Riva Porch, cotton, maroon/beige. Includes curtains, steel poles, pegs and carry bag. Approx size 6'x5'. Good Condition. £50.00 sorry no offers 07800803466 L22areaWaterloo

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TV STAND Black oval TV stand. 106cm wide. Excellent condition £30 07534826634

HOUSE AND HOME

TABLE real wood tiled surface in set of three £10 01704 538504

WRITING DESK bureau with cupboard £10 01704 538504

IKEA SHELVES For 100 Cds or dvd £10, Buyer collects 07508 602210

KARCHER WASHER Incl attachments good working order £25 01695 420135/07925690612

CHEST DRAWERS And bedside cabinet £10 01695 420135/07925690612

RECLINER CHAIR And matching stool. Cream leather. Excellent condition. £75.00 07870773105

DOUBLE DUVET 2 tone blue reversible with pillowcase and navy flat sheet £20 07933740677

HOUSE AND HOME

SIDE TABLE Mahogany round side table 25" high, 15" wide £20 07756229527

OAK SIDEBOARD 3 cupboards + 3 drawers 31" high, 47" wide, 19" deep £50 07756229527

SOLID BOOKCASE Dark wood 3ft high, 9" deep, 32" wide £10 07756229527

SHOWER SCREEN Glass shower screen for L shaped bath new still in box £25 01704 577158

BATH TAPS new chrome bath mixer taps square type £25 01704577158

ORTHOPAEDIC BED Motion intelligent orthopaedic bed £200 07923544548

TOASTER pop-up 2 slice stainless steel Russell Hobbs only £7 01695623497

LIGHT Tall stand up light. silver with white shade. Excellent condition. £20 01704833268

OAK TABLE rectangle, six chocolate faux chairs £150 07530 394986

3 SEATER SETTEE 2 chairs, pouffe, red material, fire proof, £200 ono 07904 143905

UPVC DOOR exterior 2 glass black white, size 33 x 77", no frame, vgc £20 01704 538504

VACUUM CLEANER Dyson, Upright. Good condition £30 0151 4769230

HOOVER WHIRLWIND Upright good condition £30 01704 224039

HOUSE AND HOME

CURTAINS 72" drop 66" wide cream satin finish, lightweight, excellent condition like new, bargain £15 01704220356

CURTAINS 72" drop 66"wide Teal/Brown satin finish, tie backs, heavy weight, excellent condition bargain £35 01704220356

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CANDLESTICK HOLDERS Pair Franklin Mint cherub porcelain candlestick holders £25 for pair 01695 420135/07925690612

DOUBLE HEADBOARD Double metal headboard. Antique style black with brass knobs £15 01704 894670

RECLINER CHAIR and matching stool. Cream leather. Excellent condition. £75.00 07870773105

CUSHION COVERS 5 x 45cm square, cream/beige/green Balmoral check from Dunelm new condition £20 07933740677

CHEST DRAWERS Mahogany solid wood 4 large drawers + 2 small. 41" high, 18" deep,35" wide £90 07756229527

ROCKING CHAIR Mahogany with green upholstery 41" high, 23" wide, 19" deep £50 ono 07756229527

MAHOGANY SIDEBOARD Also could be used as a TV unit 25" high, 43" wide, 17" deep £40 ono 07756229527

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HOUSE AND HOME

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RUG Brown and cream chequered rug 5' 10'' x 3' 11''. Excellent condition. £20 01704833268

NEO FIGURINE 2 dogs, one white and grey and the other white and beige. £20. 01704 833268

CURTAINS Pair of chenille grey pencil pleat curtains. 90 x 90 inches. Like new. £40 01704833268

BEECH TABLE Beech table and 6 brown leather chairs. 180 x 90 x 78cm high. £60 01704 833268

DYSON DC14 upright vacuum cleaner with tools, perfect condition, can be delivered £50 Southport 214498

CURTAIN POLE Brushed Silver expandable curtain pole with decorative ends. 6-8 ft. £10 01704573196

BLACKOUT CURTAINS Silver with silver rope tie-backs. 228cm x 137cm 8' x 5'. In very good condition. £15 01704573196

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LEATHER SOFAS Cream Italian Leather 2 & 3 seater. Excellent condition. Buyer collects. £175 for the two. 07595 154670

LEATHER SOFA three seater sofa and two matching chairs in dark maroon colour £395 ono 01515263851

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DOUBLE BEDDING Lilac, pale green/ blue striped duvet cover/ pillowcases, curtains 72x66 with 3" tape, plus plain lilac flat & fitted sheet £35 07933740677

MAHOGANY TABLE with 6 chairs + 2 crcraverith brass loin feet with matching display unit £350 will sell seseparate300 07756229527

ELECTRIC BED Single adjustamatic bed. Riser foot and head, headboard and mattress inc.
buyer collects
£50 ovno 07810540634

CLOTHES AIRER MINKY tall clothes airer, lots of space for drying with adjustable racks. Buyer collects, £10 07810540634

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COFFEE TABLES Glass x2 Rectangular L40", £25 Square L24" £20 (both W24" H17").Walnut legs and chrome bars, lower glass shelf. 01704 880129

LLADRO FIGURINES 3 Japanese Geisha girls 1 holding a lantern, 1 holding 2 fans, 1 holding fan and other arm outstretched. £150 01704 833268

LLADRO FIGURINES 3 figurines. Clown sitting on ball, clown with puppy, girl sitting with basket of flowers. All 3 for £100 01704 833268

OAK TABLE Oak table and 4 brown leather chairs from Oak Furniture land. Like new.150 x 74 x 75cm high. £300 01704 833268

KITCHEN SHELF 1/2 circle carousel shelf for corner cupboard, top shelf swivels fits 800-1000mm corner floor unit. £30 01704573196

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VACUUM CLEANER Dyson DC33 bagless upright, good clean condition, yellow and bronze £45, will deliver 07879 087669

ROCKET SHAPED HEADBOARD shelf cushion, plus blackout curtains. 66x72, blue with rockets on the bottom, all from Next £20, brand new 07590 336533

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TABLE LAMPS Two table lamps in very nice condition, will separate if required. Selling only due to down sizing. For both £20 07387439004

MED OAK COFFEE TABLE L37" D17" H18" with lower shelf comes with table top protector(glass) ex cond £25 07821417560

2 ARMCHAIRS 2 leather box type armchairs by violino dark brown hardly used £100. Buyer collects. 07840295782 after6pm

DELSEY BRIEFCASE Hard briefcase in black with red pinstripe detail. Gray interior with numerous compartments. Very good condition. £10. 01704 877594

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07980 162415

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ANTIQUE HALL STAND Dark wood with 4 hooks & mirror, umbrella & walking stick side storage, lidded storage/seat.
Buyer collects
£150 ovno 07810540634

ORTHOPAEDIC CHAIR High back chair with arms, sprung seat with wooden legs. Some wear on arms.
Buyer collects £25 07810540634

FOOTBALL BEDDING 2x NEXT double quilt covers, each with 2 pillowcases, football design, £5 each; NEXT blackout curtains 66'x72', football design, £8 07598 156445

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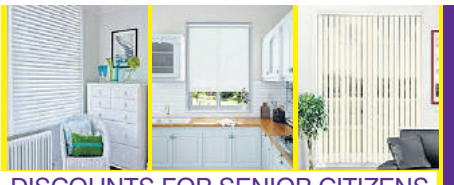
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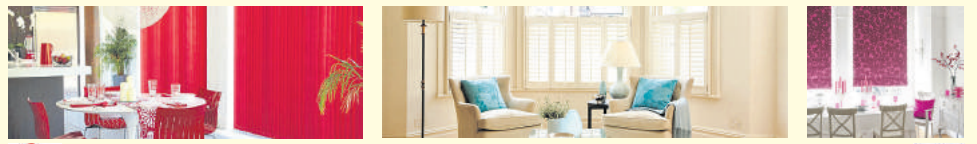
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IN MEMORIAM

PENNINGTON CATHERINE

10th May 2018

One lonely year has passed without you Cath.
You are loved and missed so much,
Forever in our hearts.

Jim, Lisa, Andrea, Michael, David, Ian and Bonnie

IN MEMORIAM

O'NEILL ANTHONY

13th May 2011

Eight years have passed, you may have died but you're not gone.
As long as the sun shines, the wind blows, the rain falls you will live on.
You will always be a part of me.

Broken hearted Mum and family.

RIP
XXX

DORAN SHEILA

9th May 2010

To my She

You left us with precious memories, that made us laugh and cry,
but the love you planted in our hearts, no millionaire can buy

From your Bill, Stephen, Jane, Jema and Ella.
Love always
XXXXX

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

HART SHEILA

The family would like to express their heartfelt thanks to relatives, friends and neighbours for all their support, cards and donations to Carla Lane Animals In Need.
A special thanks to Sally and her team at MLS Independent Funeral Directors for their professional and dignified funeral arrangements. Also a big thank you to Sandra Howles.

OWEN ELSIE

Thanks to Friends of Elsie and her Family for support, cards and donations to The Alzheimers Society received.
Thanks also to the Staff at Courtfield Lodge for the care given to Mum during her stay, especially during the last few weeks.
Also to the Team of District Nurses for their support and to Lisa and her Team at MLS for the dignified funeral arrangements.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

GUY PETER

Thank you to all who attended to pay their respects and all the thoughtful cards and messages sent to the family.
We would also like to thank everyone for their kind donations towards North West Cancer Research, hopefully together we can make a difference.
Finally we would like to express our sincere gratitude to all at MLS Independent Funeral Directors who have been a huge support throughout this difficult time.
He was a truly magnificent man and will be greatly missed by all.

SKEELS WILLIAM GEOFFREY (GEOFF)

Joan wishes to sincerely thank all friends and neighbours for their beautiful cards and kind donations received in memory of her dear Husband which were much appreciated.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

GLOVER KATH

Dave, Claire, Carl and family wish to express their sincere thanks to relatives, friends, neighbours and work colleagues for their many cards, kind words of sympathy and generous donations to the British Heart Foundation and Guide Dogs for the Blind following their recent sad loss.
Thanks to all those who have helped care for Kath over recent years, including staff at both Southport and Ormskirk Hospitals.
Special thanks to Karen and Dolinda from Care Concern.
Your visits and the chats you had with Kath always brightened her day.
Special thanks also to the West Lancashire District Nursing Team.
Thanks to Sandra Howles for a comforting service celebrating Kath's life and to Sally Hunter MLS Independent Funeral Directors for the dignified funeral arrangements.
The support given to us all has been greatly appreciated.

CAUNCE JAMES WILLIAM (BILL)

Mary and the family would like to express their sincere thanks and appreciation to all relatives, friends and neighbours for the messages of condolence, support and donations received during their recent sad loss of Bill.
Special thanks to the Doctors and Nursing Staff from The Stroke Unit, Ward 15b, Southport Hospital for all their kindness and care, and to Rev Michael Tindsley for his kind ministrations.
Grateful thanks to Sally Hunter and all the staff at MLS Independent Funeral Directors for their compassion, help and dignified Funeral arrangements.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

EDMONDSON JOHN DOUGLAS

Esther would like to thank all relatives, friends, neighbours and work colleagues for their unconditional support on the loss of her beloved Husband John Douglas Edmondson, Dougie to all who knew him. Also thanks for the cards, beautiful flowers and donations for The British Heart Foundation. Also thanks to Father John for his beautiful service, everyone was impressed and said it was the best service they had been to. Also a big thank you to all at Porters Funeral Directors and a big thank you also to Kayleigh for all her support in all the planning, I couldn't have done it without her.

LAWRENSON JAMES (JIMMY)

Jimmy's family would like to thank all the Doctors and Staff of Ward 3 at Aintree Hospital for their kindness and comforting words.
All the Family and friends who travelled from near and far to join us in the celebration of Jimmy's life. All who have made kind donations to our chosen charity, Woodlands Hospice.
Carol Edwards for her lovely presentation at Thornton Crematorium, the Staff of The Stanley Arms for looking after 20 of us all afternoon. Last but not least, Anabel Hunter and team at MLS Funeral Directors for their sympathy and their wonderful organisation of Jimmy's funeral.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BROWN CYRIL

Joan and family would like to express their heartfelt thanks to all relatives and friends for the kind messages of sympathy, cards, flowers and generous donations to the British Heart Foundation on the loss of a very treasured and much loved Husband, Dad, Grandad and Great-Grandad. Special thanks to Reverend Canon Dr. Rod Garner, Sue Palmer and all at Holy Trinity Parish Church, also to those involved with Cyril's care. Sincere thanks to Carl and team at Howard's Funeral Directors for their professional, compassionate and dignified funeral arrangements at this very sad time.

DEATHS

STOKER JOHN

After a short illness, peacefully in hospital on 30th April 2019, aged 81 years

Much loved Dad of Richard and Paul. Dear Father-in-law of Laura and Cici. Devoted Grandad of Jack, Ellie, Nanina, Anna and Tianna. Brother of Richard, Gerard, Margaret and the late Michael and Anthony.
A much loved Uncle of Jane, David, Alison, Martin and Theresa.
John will be sadly missed by all his family and all who knew him.
Funeral Service and Committal will take place at Southport Crematorium on Thursday 16th May 2019 at 10.40am.
Family flowers only by request please but the family are gratefully receiving donations for The Royal British Legion.
Further enquires please to Moisters Funeral Directors. 8 Marshside Road, Churchtown, Southport. PR9 8PF Tel: 01704 227430.

DEATHS

DOBSON MARK JOHN

After a long illness passed away peacefully in hospital on 25th April 2019 aged 58 years

Much loved Husband of Paula.
Much loved Dad of Richard, Danielle and Andrew. Devoted Son of Rosa Stringman. Devoted Grandad of Alfie and Lucas. Loving Brother of Paul, Kevin and Kerry. A much loved Uncle of Mair, Amy, Bethany, Charlotte, Emma, Sarah, Holly, Gemma, Sophie and Bradley.
Mark will be sadly missed by all his family, friends and all who knew him.
Funeral Service and Committal will take place at West Lancashire Crematorium, Burscough on Friday 10th May 2019 at 1.45pm. Family flowers only please, but donations are being gratefully received by the family for Heartburn Cancer UK.
Further enquiries please to Cookson Tyrer Funeral Directors, 2 Smithy Walk, Burscough, Lancashire L40 5UU Tel 01704 897770.

GEORGESON IAN JAMES

26th April 2019 Peacefully in hospital aged 67 years

Much loved Brother, Brother-in-law, Uncle, Great Uncle and friend to many. Will be sadly missed by all his family and friends.
Funeral service will take place at West Lancashire Crematorium on Thursday 9th May at 2.30pm. Family flowers only please by request. Donations if desired for C.R.Y.
All enquiries Margaret Whitelam, Skelmersdale Funeral Services, 29/31 Sandy Lane Tel: 01695 559868

DEATHS

FLETCHER ALEXANDER STEPHEN (ALEC)

On 18th April 2019 Peacefully at Home Aged 75 years

Dearly loved Husband of Diane, loving Dad of Mark and Andrew, dear Father in Law of Gail and Karen, much loved Grandad of George, Becky, Nathan, Rachel, Harvey and Ruby and dear Brother of Teddy and the late John.
Funeral service took place at Southport Crematorium on Thursday 2nd May, donations are being gratefully received for Revitalize.
Diane and family would like to thank all relatives and friends for their very kind thoughts of sympathy and donations received during their sad loss.
Special thanks to The Medical Day Unit at Southport Hospital for their every care and attention, grateful thanks to Pastor Richard Vernon for his kind ministrations, and to M. Rushton Funeral Directors for their dignified Funeral arrangements. We apologize that due to a technical error the Obituary notice did not appear in last weeks paper.

WRIGHT JOAN

1st May 2019 Aged 88 years

Died peacefully at Queenscourt Hospice. Loving Wife of the late George. Joan will be sadly missed by all her family and friends.
Service at Holy Trinity Parish Church, Southport on Monday 13th May at 10:15am followed by a committal at Southport Crematorium.
Donations are being collected in lieu of flowers for Queenscourt Hospice.
Enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 1-5 Roe Lane, Southport, PR9 9DR. Telephone: 01704 500086.

DEATHS

SWASH ALMA VIVIEN

Following an illness in hospital on 24th April 2019, aged 86 years

Much loved Wife of Harold (deceased). Much loved Mum of Heather and Duncan. Dear Mother-in-Law of Julie and Peter. Loving Gran of Andrew, Iain, Emma, Michael, Matthew and Great Gran of Abbie, Lewis and Freddie. Loving Sister of Helen.
Alma will be sadly missed by all who knew her.
Funeral Service and Committal will take place at Southport Crematorium on Wednesday 15th May 2019 at 11.20am.
No black ties please. Family flowers only by request please but the family are gratefully receiving donations for Queenscourt Hospice and Guide Dogs for the Blind.
Further enquires please to Moisters Funeral Directors. 8 Marshside Road, Churchtown, Southport. PR9 8PF Tel: 01704 227430.

HUDSON JOHN ALFRED

21st April 2019 Passed away peacefully after a short illness, aged 96

Beloved Husband of Joyce for 64 years, Much loved Father to Clive and Simon, loving Grandfather to Matthew, Lucy, Samuel and George and loving Father-in-law to Fiona and Bridget. Funeral service will take place at Thornton Crematorium on Monday 13th May 2019 at 10.40am.
Family flowers only please. Donations if desired to RAF benevolent fund c/o H. Leslie Humphreys, 69 Liverpool Road, Crosby L23 5SE. Tel 0151 924 4805.

DEATHS

DARBYSHIRE MARGARET

(of Billinge, Orrell and later Ormskirk) Died peacefully at home 22nd April 2019 aged 86 years

Dearly loved Wife of the late Cyril Darbyshire, beloved Mum to Philip and Jill, Grandma to Erik and Harry and Sister to Anne. Margaret will be missed dearly by all her family and friends, including Lennie the cat. Funeral service at St Luke's Church Orrell on Tuesday 14th May 2019 at 12:30pm, followed by a private cremation service. Family flowers only please.
Donations can be made in memory of Margaret to Diabetes UK, National Autistic Society or The Salvation Army.

Donations and further enquiries please to Lisa Hunter. MLS Independent Funeral Directors. 20, Moss Delph Lane, Aughton, L39 5DZ. Tel: 01695 424888

DEATHS

There's even more online!
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WORDLEY MIKE

It is with the saddest regret that we announce the sudden death of Mike Wordley, on 25th April 2019, aged 56 years.

Much-loved Dad of Lauren, Paul, Dylan and Brother John.
Will be very sadly missed. Relatives and friends are invited to attend Mike's funeral on Friday 10th May at 3.20pm at Thornton Crematorium, Lydiate Lane, Thornton, Liverpool, L23 1TP

Family request a dash of colour to be worn

Family flowers only, donations if desired to Freshfield Animal Rescue c/o all enquiries to Coyne Bros Funeral Directors, 3 Old Mill Lane, Formby, L37 3PE. Tel. 01704 873899

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DEATHS

BEVAN VALERIE (VAL)

Passed away peacefully at home in her sleep 2nd May 2019 aged 69 years

Dearly Loved Wife of Mick. Much Loved Mum of Stephen, Paul, Philip, and James. Devoted Nanny, dearest Daughter of Norman, Beloved Sister of Brian, Loved and missed by all her Family and Friends. Funeral Service at West Lancs Crematorium on Friday 10th May 2019 at 10.00 am. Family flowers only please by request, donations are being gratefully received for Cancer Research.

Donations and further enquires please to Lisa Hunter MLS Independent Funeral Directors, 22a, Liverpool Rd North, Burscough, Tel: 01704 891555.

RILEY MICHAEL

1st May 2019
Peacefully in hospital surrounded by his loving family aged 79 years

Loving Husband of Cathy. Devoted Dad of Cathy, Michael, Eddie, Joanne and Julie. Cherished Grandad and Great Grandad of all his Grandchildren, a dear Brother, Father in law, Uncle and a friend to many. Will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. Funeral service will take place on Thursday 9th May at St Richards Church at 10.30am, followed by interment at West Lancashire Cemetery. Family flowers only please by request, donations if desired for The Alzheimers Society. All enquiries Margaret Whitelam, Skelmersdale Funeral Service, 29/31 Sandy Lane Tel:01695 559868

GREGORY FRANK

12th April 2019
Aged 75 years

Passed away peacefully in Southport Hospital. Frank was a Brother, Uncle and friend. Service to take place at Southport Crematorium on Monday 13th May at 1:20pm. Family flowers only please, but if desired donations are being collected for Noah's Ark Rescue. Enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 1-5 Roe Lane, Southport, PR9 9DR. Telephone: 01704 500086.

BIRDS LEONARD

2nd May 2019
Passed away peacefully at home, aged 93 years.

The goodbye farewell to be celebrated on Tuesday 14th May 2019, 11.20am at Southport Crematorium. Further enquiries please to Brookfields Funeralcare, 73-75 Shakespeare Street, Southport, PR8 5AJ. Tel No: 01704 532106

SIMONS CHARLOTTE (LETTIE)

6th May 2019
Passed away peacefully in hospital aged 93 years

Dearly loved Wife of the late James Simons. Much loved Mum, Grandma and Great-Grandma.

For Funeral arrangements please contact Sally Hunter. MLS Independent Funeral Directors, 20, Moss Delph Lane, Aughton, Ormskirk. Tel: 01695 424888

SIMONS STEPHEN MICHAEL

1st May 2019
Stephen died peacefully at home with his family by his side

Much loved Husband of Brenda. Loving Father of Amanda, Jonathan and James and Grandad (Gagga) to Ellie, Sophia, Georgia, Richard and Harpur. Funeral to take place at West Lancashire Crematorium on Wednesday 15th May 2019 at 11.30am. Family flowers only but donations will be gratefully received on behalf of Queenscourt Hospice. c/o Holgate Funeral Services Ltd. The Old Schoolmaster's House, St. Anne's Church, Fence,Burnley. BB12 9EE Tel: 01282 616788

MCLEOD LILY

Passed away peacefully at Park Grove Nursing Home 28th April 2019 aged 95 years

Much loved Wife of the late Richard (Dick). Devoted Mum to Maureen and Colin, cherished Nan of Robert and James and Mother-in-law to Liz. Will be sadly missed by all her family and friends. Funeral Service at St. Mary The Virgin Church, Rufford on Monday 13th May 2019 at 1.15pm, followed by committal at West Lancashire Crematorium. Family flowers only but donations if so desired for NWAA and Cancer Research. All enquiries to Hunters of Ormskirk, 128b Burscough St, Ormskirk L39 5EY Tel:01695 572997

WARD DOUG (DOUGIE)

Passed away on 28th April 2019 in Queenscourt Hospice after a long illness aged 63 years

Much loved Husband of Hilary. Father of Matthew, Brother of Ken, Tommy and Anne, Brother-in-law and Uncle. Will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. Funeral service will take place at West Lancs Crematorium on Friday 10th May at 11.30am. Family flowers only please but donations if desired to Queenscourt Hospice. Enquiries to Hunters Funeral Directors, 128b Burscough St, Ormskirk L39 2EY Tel: 01695 572997

MOLYNEUX EDWARD JOSEPH

15.02.1940 - 05.05.2019
Passed away peacefully at Beaufort Care Home

Much loved Father to Keith, Elaine & Julie. Beloved Grandfather to Jordan, Noah and Nicholas. He was also a dear friend to Anne Fletcher & Wyn Charlesworth and so many others. He will be dearly missed, his enthusiasm for life will never be forgotten. Donations if so desired to Dog's Trust

For Funeral Arrangements and further enquiries please contact Sally Hunter, MLS Independent Funeral Directors, 20 Moss Delph Lane, Aughton, Ormskirk, Lancs, L39 5DZ. Tel: 01695 424888.

To place a family announcement please call 01704 392392

BENTLEY RICHARD EDWARD (DICKIE)

28th April 2019
Aged 79 years

Died peacefully surrounded by his loving family. Devoted Husband of Margaret, much loved Dad of Jayne, Andrew and Louise. Father-in-law to Peter and Denise and cherished Grandad of Jack, Callum, Rhianna and Eleanor. Dickie will be greatly missed by all his family and friends. Service at St Mark's Parish Church, Scarisbrick on Tuesday 14th May at 2:00pm followed by interment in the Churchyard. Family flowers only please, but if desired donations are being collected for Queenscourt Hospice. Enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 1-5 Roe Lane, Southport, PR9 9DR. Telephone: 01704 500086.

CLARKE MARTIN JAMES

30th April 2019
Fell asleep peacefully in Southport Hospital. Aged 79.

Dearly loved and sadly missed by his family, friends and all those who knew him. Kind, generous and supportive, blessed with a heart of gold.

Funeral service to take place at West Lancashire Crematorium on Thursday 16th May at 3.15pm. No flowers by request. Donations can be made in Martin's memory to Woodlands Animal Sanctuary. Further enquiries to H.Johnson & Sons, 1A Ralph's Wife's Lane,Banks,Southport. PR9 8ER. Tel 01704 505252.

HARRIS JACK

Peacefully in hospital on 30th April 2019, aged 87 years

Devoted Husband of the Late Enid May. Much loved Father of Christopher and Jonathan. Loving Grandad of Andrew and Jayne, Michaela and Matthew. Jack will be sadly missed by his family, friends and all who knew him. Funeral Service will take place at Emmanuel Church, Cambridge Road, Southport on Monday 13th May 2019 at 1.30pm. Family flowers only by request please but the family are gratefully receiving donations for Dementia UK. Further enquires please to Moisters Funeral Directors 8 Marshside Road, Churchtown, Southport PR9 8PF Tel: 01704 227430.

BUTCHART MARION DORIS

After a short illness, peacefully in hospital on 26th April 2019, aged 83 years.

Dearly beloved Wife of Stanley. Much loved Mum of Alan, David and Graham. Dear Mother-In-Law of Linda, Sue and Helen. Loving Nana of Craig, Steven, James and Rebecca. Marion will be sadly missed by all her family and friends.

Funeral service will take place St Johns C of E Church, Ainsdale on Wednesday 15th May 2019 at 1pm, followed by a Committal service at Southport Crematorium at 2pm.

Family flowers only by request please but the family are gratefully receiving donations for Dementia UK.

Further enquiries to: Moisters Funeralcare, 25A Sefton Street, Southport, PR8 6SG, Tel: 01704 501501

KALEL

Our beautiful Grandson fell asleep on 2nd May 2019 Aged 11 years old

Will always and forever be with us in our hearts. Goodnight our beautiful boy. Absolutely heartbroken

Nanny & Grandad Woodward XX

SINGLETON PAULINE DORIS (Nee Green)

of Maghull previously of Aintree
Sadly passed away in Liverpool Heart and Chest Hospital on Saturday 20th April 2019

Beloved Mother to Mark and Julie, Grandmother to Chris, Katherine, Louise and Kerry. Great Grandma to Michael, Riley, Logan, Olivia, Winnie, Reuben and Eoin. She will be sadly missed by all who knew her. Funeral Service will be held at West Lancashire Crematorium Pippin Street, Ormskirk L40 7SP on Friday 10th May at 1pm. Family flowers only please but donations, if desired are being collected for the PDSA. All enquiries to Graham J Clegg Funeral Directors, 7 Dover Road, Maghull, Merseyside L31 5JB Tel: 0151 520 3330.

DEATHS

WILLIAMS JOYCE MARILYN (NEE GRIFFIN)

29th April 2019
Sadly passed away aged 70 years

Beloved Wife of the late Ray, loving Mum of Jeff, Step Mum to Karen, dear Mother in law of Nicola and dearly loved Nanny to all her Grandchildren. She will be greatly missed by all her family and friends xx Funeral service at St Michael and all Angels Church, Dalton on Tuesday 14th May 2019 at 11:45am followed by cremation at St. Helens Crematorium. Family flowers only please, donations if desired for Cancer Research UK.
All enquiries to Melanie Hardman at H Hardman & Co., Independent Family Funeral Directors Tel: 01695 722122/720012

PUBLIC NOTICES

MEDICAL APPROVALS LIMITED
Company Registered No: 08902027
In Members' Voluntary Liquidation
Registered office: Yorkshire House 18 Chapel Street Liverpool L3 9AG. Principal trading address: 20 New Court Way Ormskirk L39 2YT. Notice is hereby given that the creditors of the above named Company, which was voluntarily wound up on 29 April 2019, are required, on or before 29 May 2019 to send their full names and addresses together with full particulars of their debts or claims to Parkin S Booth & Co, Yorkshire House 18 Chapel Street Liverpool L3 9AG, and, if so requested by me, to provide such further details or produce such documentary or other evidence as may appear to be necessary, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved. Note: This is a solvent liquidation and all known creditors have been or will be paid in full. Date of appointment: 29 April 2019. For further details contact Bob Evans on telephone 0151 236 4331, or by email at be@parkinsbooth.co.uk
Joint Liquidators: John P Fisher (IP No 9420) and Ian C Brown (IP No 8621) of **Parkin S Booth & Co, Yorkshire House 18 Chapel Street Liverpool L3 9AG.**
Dated this 29 April 2019 *T557596*

LOTTERY RESULTS

JOSPICE LOTTERY WINNERS
Friday 3rd May 2019

£1000.....Mrs Munro, Croxteth Park
£250..... Mr Charnock, Crosby
£100.....Mrs Benton, Litherland
Plus 15 other winners of £10 each

QUEENSCOURT 2000 DRAW RESULTS

This week's £1,500 Prize Winner lives in Orchard View, Aughton
£1,500 = 160573 £100 = 199878

Winners of £20 are as follows:

29672	15725
116536	325737
245828	17927
122458	22031
93359	93287
19431	266713
26768	184804
159556	28645
250683	248514
17538	55822

PUBLIC NOTICES

West Lancashire Borough Council
Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Act 1990 Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 - Article 15

APPLICATION(S) FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

2019/0284/FUL Single storey garden room with gymnasium at basement level at 86A Elmers Green, Skelmersdale.
The application affects a Listed Building.
2019/0285/LBC Listed Building Consent - Single storey garden room with gymnasium at basement level at 86A Elmers Green, Skelmersdale.
The application affects a Listed Building.
2019/0368/FUL 1.61Ha (3.98 Acres) Extension to existing glasshouse development at West Gate Farm, Guide Road, Hesketh Bank.
The applications are available for viewing on the Council's website www.westlancs.gov.uk/planning. Alternatively, the application can be viewed during normal office hours at 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk and at 1st Floor, The Concourse, Skelmersdale. If you wish to comment on the proposal you can do so via the Council's web site, by e-mail to plan.apps@westlancs.gov.uk or in writing to Development and Regeneration Services, 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk, but these must be received within 24 days of the date of this notice quoting the application number.
Applications for Minor Commercial and Householder Development
In the event that an appeal is made against a decision of the Council to refuse to grant planning permission for the proposed development, and that appeal then proceeds by way of the expedited procedure under the written representations procedure, any representations made to the Council about an application will be passed to the Secretary of State and there will be no opportunity to make further representations.
How information about you will be used
The personal data you provide will be used as part of the Council's statutory planning duties in processing planning and related applications. Some of the personal information, including your name and address, you provide will be published. For further information about this notice or how we use your personal data please see: http://www.westlancs.gov.uk/planning/planning-privacy-notices/level-2-development-management-cil-privacy-notice.aspx and http://www.westlancs.gov.uk/about-the-council/legal-statements-and-foi/privacy-and-data-protection-gdpr.aspx. Hard copies are available on request.

John R Harrison DipEnvP., MRTPI Director of Development and Regeneration
Dated: 8th May 2019
PDNOT1043

LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
(NEW LANE, BURSCOUGH, WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2019
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Lancashire County Council intend to make an Order under **Section 14(1) (a) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984**, as amended, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit traffic on the roads set out in this notice.
1. No person shall cause any motor vehicle to proceed over that length of New Lane, Burscough for 25m either side of the level crossing.
2. The prohibition will be operative from 0830 hours on Tuesday 28th May 2019 until 1630 hours on Wednesday 29th May 2019 or until completion of the works within this period. Road will only be closed between the times stated above on each day. Access will be maintained whenever and wherever possible
3. An alternative route for vehicular traffic affected by the closure is via:- Marsh Moss Lane – Tarlscough Lane – Red Cat Lane – Liverpool Road North – Liverpool Road South – Higgins Lane – New Lane
The temporary prohibition is necessary to allow laying of duct works to be carried out.
Authority given for this Order to be made:
Michael White, Network Regulation Manager, Lancashire Highway Services, 0300 123 6701 [Ref: HRiT/17459/EW]

www.lancashire.gov.uk
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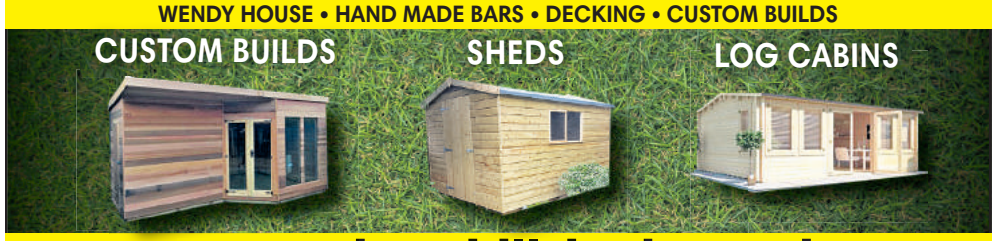

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Poor old Dacia's latest online advertising campaign seems to have backfired on them!

POOR old Dacia. I'm sure it meant well with its latest online ad campaign, but from what I've seen it seems to have backfired a bit.

For those of you who haven't seen it, there's an ongoing campaign to promote the Sandero Stepway, a shortened version of which dripped into my Instagram feed the other night.

It shows a group of lads gathered on a driveway around an immobile Ford Capri, before another chap – this time with a big smile – beckons you towards a shiny, fully-functioning piece of reasonably priced Romanian hatchback.

The inference being that you can have a brand-new car, complete with three-year warranty, instead of Ford's malfunctioning old one. So far, so good.

Except that not a single one of the comments underneath it seemed to agree. Once you'd got past the swearing the executive summary of just about everyone went something along the lines of; "Actually, chaps, we'd still rather have the Capri, even if it is a broken one. It'll be worth more, too."

One of them was so offended he referred the manufacturer's ad to the chaps at *Classic Ford* magazine. I suspect that if Dacia had picked any old car there'd have been an outcry of some form – Richard Hammond's decision to attack an Austin Allegro Estate with a crowbar on the last episode of *The Grand Tour* met with a similar response – but what it has done is shown just how much the Ford Capri is part of Britain's national character. Picking on it was never going to be a smart move.

The Ford Capri still has a cult following in the UK

The Capri – which celebrates its 50th anniversary this year, incidentally – is one of those cars that has a UK following that borders on the fanatical. Even when it was still a current model in Ford's range it was lapped up by us long after it had been deleted from other European markets, to the extent that all of the cars coming out of Ford's Cologne factory headed straight over the North Sea to UK dealers.

There are clubs and car shows across the UK dedicated to the car – and you can't say that about the Sandero Stepway.

What's more, I reckon that while you can still (just about) buy a broken one for less than the cost of a new Dacia, you'd struggle to do the same with a working one, with a V6 version setting you back something in the region of £10,000, and the Tickford and Brooklands versions considerably more. Why? Nostalgia. If you didn't know someone who had a Capri back in the day, then you probably knew someone who lusted after one.

With that pretty body draped over sturdy – if not exactly space age – Cortina mechanicals it made perfect sense, which is why it made regular appearances in the list of Britain's best-selling cars throughout the Seventies and early Eighties.

I'm sure that, looking at it logically, the Sandero Stepway is a better, safer, more reliable car that spends less time at the pumps and is easier to live with.

But I know which I'd rather have.

David Simister is the editor of Classic Car Weekly

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*** CORSA 1.4 SRi NAV 90 5 DR 18 REG** 5,000 miles in quantum grey metallic, SAT NAV, Bluetooth, IntelliLink, cruise, aircon, alloys, DAB, radio, heated windscreen **£10,395**

*** CORSA 1.4 SE 90 5 DR 17 REG**, 3,000 miles in Persian blue metallic, IntelliLink, front & rear park assist, alloys, DAB radio, heated front seats & steering wheel, cruise, Bluetooth, heated windscreen, aircon – FSH **£9,650**

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*** CORSA 1.4 SE 90 5 DR 17 REG** 8,000 miles in white, IntelliLink, front & rear park assist, alloys, DAB radio, heated front seats & steering wheel, cruise, Bluetooth, heated windscreen, aircon **£8,995**

*** CORSA 1.4 SRi 5 DR 16 REG** just 3,000 miles in sapphire black metallic with black alloys, IntelliLink, Bluetooth, aircon, DAB radio, heated windscreen, cruise – FSH & £30 road tax, Jan MOT **£8,595**

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*** MOKKA X 1.4 TURBO ACTIVE 5 DR 67 REG** 3,000 miles in summit white, IntelliLink, Bluetooth, alloys, cruise, DAB radio, front & rear park assist, climate, FSH **£12,695**

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*** MOKKA 1.6 SE 5 DR 65 REG** 20,000 miles in glacier white, Bluetooth, full leather, heated front seats & steering wheel, front & rear park assist, cruise, aircon, alloys - FSH and Nov MOT **£9,495**

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*** HYUNDAI TUCSON 1.6 SE NAV GDi (PETROL) 5 DR 16 REG** 12,000 miles in black diamond metallic, SAT NAV, Bluetooth, heated front seats, alloys, cruise, DAB radio, climate, reversing camera – FSH **£13,995**

*** HYUNDAI TUCSON 1.7 SE NAV CRDi 5 DR 16 REG** 28,000 miles in moon rock metallic, SAT NAV, Bluetooth, climate, cruise, DAB radio, alloys, heated front seats, reverse camera – FSH & balance of 5 yr Hyundai warranty **£13,495**

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*** RENAULT CLIO 1.2 DYNAMIQUE NAV 75 5 DR 18 REG** 9,000 miles in titanium metallic, SAT NAV, Bluetooth, DAB radio, alloys, aircon, cruise - balance of 3 yr Renault warranty **£9,495**

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HONDA CIVIC 1.4 S 5 DR 16 REG 27,000 miles in bright blue metallic, Bluetooth, alloys, climate, DAB radio – FSH & 12 months MOT **£9,195**

*** HYUNDAI i10 1.2 SE 5 DR 68 REG** 9,000 miles in black, Bluetooth, cruise, DAB radio, aircon – balance of 5 yr Hyundai warranty **£8,995**

*** HYUNDAI I20 1.2 S AIR 5 DR 18 REG** from 12,000 miles, in aqua sparkling metallic or white, aircon, DAB radio – balance of 5 yr Hyundai warranty **£8,650**

ASTRA 1.6 SRi CDTi SPORTS TOURER (ESTATE) 5 DR 15 REG 27,000 miles in sovereign silver metallic, alloys, cruise, rear park assist, towbar, spare wheel – supplied by ourselves, 12 months MOT & £20 road tax **£7,995**

LANDROVER FREELANDER 2 2.2 GS TD4 5 DR 11 REG 83,000 miles in black, alloys – local car, serviced by ourselves & March MOT ..... **DUE IN £7,995**

*** KIA SOUL 1.6 CRDi CONNECT (DIESEL) 5 DR 15 REG** 29,000 miles in inferno red, alloys, aircon, cruise, rear park assist, Bluetooth, DAB radio space saver spare wheel - FSH, 12 months MOT & balance of 7 yr Kia warranty **£7,750**

BMW 320 D 2.0 M SPORT TOURING AUTO ESTATE 5 DR 13 REG 167,000 miles in black metallic, leather, Bluetooth, alloys, rear park assist, FSH with BMW and ourselves **£7,295**

FORD FIESTA 1.0 ZETEC TURBO 5 DR 15 REG 35,000 miles in race red, alloys, Bluetooth – FSH & £0 road tax, Feb MOT **£7,150**

TOYOTA VERSO 2.0 TR D-4D 7 SEATER 5 DR 12 REG 62,000 miles in silver blue metallic, alloys – FSH and March MOT, sat nav, bluetooth - 1 family owned **£6,995**

*** VAUXHALL ANTARA 2.2 EXCLUSIV CDTi 5 DR 63 REG** 21,000 miles in grey metallic, Bluetooth, alloys, heated front seats – FSH at Vauxhall & 12 months MOT **£6,995**

SKODA OCTAVIA 1.6 S TDI ESTATE 5 DR 14 REG 87,000 miles in grey metallic, alloys, Bluetooth, DAB radio - £0 road tax, FSH & 12 months MOT - spotless & just had cambelt **£6,795**

SEAT LEON 1.2 S TSi 5 DR 14 REG 24,000 miles in denim blue metallic. FSH & 12 months MOT - £30 road tax **£6,695**

VAUXHALL INSIGNIA 2.0 SE CDTi NAV 5 DR 12 REG 53,000 miles in macadamia metallic, SAT NAV, alloys, cruise – supplied & serviced by ourselves & 12 months MOT **£5,695**

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 SXi 5 DR 64 REG 34,000 miles in sapphire black metallic, alloys, cruise, privacy glass – FSH, supplied & serviced by ourselves **£5,495**

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 SE 5 DR 13 REG 36,000 miles in silver lake metallic, alloys, cruise, heated front seats & steering wheel – supplied by ourselves & Jan MOT **£4,995**

VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.8 DESIGN 5 DR 11 REG 45,000 miles in metro blue metallic, alloys, cruise, rear park assist, spare wheel – FSH, supplied & serviced by ourselves – absolutely spotless, local retired owner, 12 months MOT **£4,995**

FIAT 500C 1.2 LOUNGE CONVERTIBLE 11 REG 32,000 miles in white, alloys, Bluetooth - local car, full Fiat service history, 12 months MOT, £30 Road Tax .. **£4,795**

VW POLO 1.2 BLUEMOTION TECH TDi 3 DR 12 REG 76,000 miles in silver metallic – March MOT, service history & £0 road tax **£4,695**

KIA PICANTO 1.25 ECODYNAMICS 2 5 DR 62 REG 37,000 miles in silver metallic, Bluetooth, alloys – service history & £0 road tax **£4,695**

QUALITY PART EXCHANGES

TOYOTA MR2 ROADSTER 1.8 VVTi 03 REG 68,000 miles in bright red – spotless local car, March MOT **£3,595**

CITROEN C3 PICASSO 1.6 HDi EXCLUSIVE 5 DR 11 REG 92,000 miles in bright blue metallic, alloys, rear park assist £30 road tax, service history and recent cambelt **£3,495**

NISSAN QASHQAI 2.0 DCi TEKNA 5 DR 57 REG 115,000 miles in silver metallic, rear park assist, cruise – service history & Dec MOT **£3,250**

VW FOX 1.2 3 DR 10 REG just 20,000 miles in blue metallic – 1 family owned, 12 months MOT & FSH **£3,150**

RENAULT CLIO 1.2 DYNAMIQUE ESTATE 5 DR 10 REG 50,000 miles in gold metallic – Feb MOT **£3,150**

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 SE 5 DR 10 REG 80,000 miles in oriental blue metallic, alloys, heated front seats & steering wheel – FSH & 12 months MOT – supplied by ourselves **£2,995**

FORD FIESTA 1.4 ZETEC TDCi 5 DR 11 REG 111,000 miles in silver metallic, alloys - £20 road tax, tidy car & drives well, recent cambelt **£2,995**

RENAULT CLIO 1.6 EXPRESSION AUTO 5 DR 58 REG 67,000 miles in black metallic – 12 months MOT **£2,695**

PART-EX CLEARANCE

PANDA 1.2 DYNAMIC ECO 5 DR 09 REG 62,000 miles in silver - £30 road tax .. **£1,750**

ASTRA 1.9 SRi CDTi 150 3 DR SPORT HATCH 07 REG 117,000 miles in moonlands metallic, alloys **£1,495**

PEUGEOT 207 1.4 HDi URBAN 3 DR 10 REG 121,000 miles in silver metallic – April 2020 MOT & £30 road tax **£1,495**

SUZUKI WAGON R+ 1.3 S-LIMITED 5 DR 53 REG 66,000 miles in silver metallic Feb MOT **£1,195**

VANS

VW CADDY VAN STARTLINE MAXI C20 1.6 TDi WINDOW VAN with REAR SEATS fitted 14 REG 75,000 miles in white – spotless van, just had cambelt, March MOT, service history ..... **£7,695 NO VAT**

CITROEN DISPATCH 1.6 HD 1000 H1 VAN 10 REG 95,000 miles in white – supplied & serviced by ourselves – 12 months MOT ..... **£3,795 + VAT**

VAUXHALL COMBO 1.3 CDTi VAN 10 REG 46,000 miles in silver metallic – local van, Vauxhall service history & 12 months MOT ..... **DUE IN £3,495+VAT**

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61 HYUNDAI IX 35 STYLE CRDi MANUAL, in silver **£4495**
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11 VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.4 SXi 5DR, silver, alloys **£3995**
08 NISSAN QASHQAI TEKNA DIESEL, in silver, leather, panoramic roof, FSH **£3495**
11 FORD FOCUS 1.6 DIESEL SPORT 5DR, in black with Sat Nav **£3450**
61 HYUNDAI i30 COMFOFT 1.4 5DR, in grey, 2 owner, FSH **£3425**
61 HYUNDAI I10 5DR, in silver, only 50,000 miles **£3395**
59 ALFA ROMEO MITO LUSSO 3-dr, black metallic, 61k **£3295**

AUTOMATICS

08 MERCEDES BENZ S320 DIESEL, AUTO SALOON, silver/gold, every extra **£6995**
57 BMW 530 TDM SPORT AUTOMATIC SALOON, in black with cream leather, sat nav .. **£6995**
08 TOYOTA RAV-4 XTR AUTO, in black, 3 owners **£4695**
56 BMW 320 SE AUTO SALOON petrol, black, black leather **£2995**
57 FORD C-MAX AUTOMATIC, silver, 70,000 ..... **£2795**
02 HONDA CRV 2.0 EXECUTIVE AUTOMATIC, black, full leather, sat nav, sunroof, full service history **£2795**
99 MERCEDES SLK 230 COMPRESSER COUPE AUTO, silver, leather seats **£2495**
56 VW JETTA 1.9 DIESEL AUTO, saloon, silver, 79,000 miles **£2495**
54 MERCEDES C180 Coupe automatic in silver FSH **£1995**

VANS

57 NISSAN CABSTAR ..... **£4995 NO VAT**
06 RENAULT MASTER VAN, grey ..... **£3695 NO VAT**
61 FORD TRANSIT CONNECT, white, side door ..... **£3495 NO VAT**
12 FIAT DOBLO VAN, white ..... **£3250 NO VAT**
59 PEUGEOT PARTNER DIESEL, in red ..... **£2995 NO VAT**
04 FORD TRANSIT, in silver, full MoT ..... **£1250 NO VAT**
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53 AUDI TT COUPE, manual, silver/blue with cream leather **£2750**
08 FORD FOCUS ZETEC 5DR, in silver **£2695**
11 CHEVROLET SPARK 1.2 LS 5DR, 53,000 miles, silver **£2495**
57 VW PASSAT 2.0 TDI AUTO Highline, Black, Leather, Sat Nav **£2250**
10 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.4 3DR, black **£1950**
57 FORD C-MAX DIESEL, in light blue metallic **£1795**
53 MINI COOPER in red with LEATHER & SAT NAV **£1795**
55 FORD FIESTA DIESEL 5DR, in silver **£1750**
55 FORD FOCUS 1.6 DIESEL 5DR, manual, in light blue metallic **£1595**
57 MAZDA 5 2.0 DIESEL SALOON, in blue **£1500**

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56 FIAT PUNTO 3-DR, in light blue, 64k **£1295**
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04 FORD FIESTA 5DR, light blue **£1295**
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Mileage Per Annum	5,000
Excess Mileage Charge (Per Mile)	0.09p

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£500 minimum part ex

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Interest Charge	£2,209.97
Optional Final Payment	£5,272

Total Amount Payable By Customer	£13,930.06
Total Duration of Agreement	48 months
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Excess Mileage Charge (Per Mile)	0.09p

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Total Amount Payable By Customer	£20.965.06
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47 monthly payments of	£279.17
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Total Amount Payable By Customer	£24,129.99
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Excess Mileage Charge (Per Mile)	0.09p

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Hughes guides Burscough home

BURSCOUGH recorded their first win of the campaign in the Second Division with a five wicket home win over a Southport Trinity side who are still looking to find their form.

The visitors were asked to bat on a very green wicket and struggled to 128 all out with Will Marsh (24) and Jonny Hine (20) top scoring.

In reply, opener Ryan Hughes who carried his bat (43) and Jon Stone (39) took the hosts to the brink of victory before Chris Andrews (20*) joined Hughes and helped them over the line on 129-5.

Maghull sit joint top of the table with Liverpool after a convincing 119 run win at Alder. The visitors were asked to bat first and thanks to runs from skipper Paul Walters (64), Cam Lawrenson (53) and Greg Gillespie (35) managed to declare after 47 overs on 231-8, with Greg Coogan taking 6-78. In reply, Maghull dismissed the hosts for 112, with Declan Devine taking three of the wickets to fall.

Hightown St Mary's got their first win under their belts with a five wicket home victory against St Helens Town. The visitors elected to bat and were duly dismissed for 94 with skipper Craig Woods (20) top scoring, whilst Matty Laybourne 4-10 and Gareth Glynne-Jones 4-19 shone with the ball. In reply, skipper Ben Ashcroft (33) and an unbeaten 32 from Wade Williams helped the hosts to victory on 95-5.

This weekend's local LDCC fixtures (1pm): Bootle v Orrell Red Triangle, Colwyn Bay v Formby, Ormskirk v Lytham, Southport & Birkdale v Leigh, Wallasey v Northern, Ainsdale v Wavertree, Sefton Park v Fleetwood Hesketh, Caldy v Burscough, Liverpool v Hightown St Mary's, Southport Trinity v Norley Hall and Sutton v Maghull

Skelmersdale slump to 48 all out at Commonwealth

SKELMERSDALE travelled to Liverpool College on Saturday to face Commonwealth, looking for their second win of the season.

Joe Till lost the toss and the visitors were asked to bowl first.

Jonas Smith and Andrew Moss started brightly, with the majority of the first 20 runs being edged through slip before Moss made the breakthrough, trapping I Yahathugoda LBW for 6.

Matthew Wright made an immediate impact taking two wickets in quick succession, including a magnificent caught and bowled. Jonas Smith and James Salleh took two wickets, but Commonwealth had already passed the 170 mark and the runs showed no signs of drying up or slowing down.

Harry Marston was brought into the attack looking to break the 100 partnership between M Mudiyansel age and A Gamage.

And this he did in his second over, taking three wickets, with Commonwealth ending on a strong total of 209.

Marston and Wright had some serious work to do in reply and initially looked solid and composed until Marston was bowled for 4 and Wright caught for 4.

Till came in with a clear mindset of hitting the accelerator, combining with Smith to take the partnership beyond 30 to stage a mini-recovery.

However, Skem continued to lose wickets at crucial times and despite starts from Mikey Moss, Ian Girvin and Andy Moss they slumped to 48 all out.

A disappointing result that certainly didn't reflect Skem's bowling performance.

Century for Lavelle as Ormskirk see off Rainhill

ORMSKIRK registered their first win of the campaign with a comfortable 106 run win at Rainhill, writes Glenn Wallworth.

A George Lavelle century (8x4 & 3x6), an unbeaten 79 from Alex Rankin and 31 from opener Tyler McGladdery enabled the visitors to declare after 51 overs on 220-3.

In reply, Sean Vandome (32), Matthew Fisher (26) and skipper Ben Edmundson (24) were the only ones to hit double figures for the hosts who were bowled out for 114, with Jamie Barnes 4-18, Tom Hartley 3-25 and Scott Lees 3-28 taking all the wickets to fall.

Formby sit one point off the top of the Liverpool & District Cricket Competition Premier Division after a five wicket home win against **Leigh.** The visitors chose to bat first and declared in the 54th over on 234-8, thanks to runs from Finnegan Hulbert (37*), Ben Smith (36), Paul Farrar (35) and skipper Tom Foster (31), whilst George Burrows claimed 3-54 with the ball. In reply, a superb unbeaten century from Sam Oldham (112 inc 11x4 & 2x6) and an unbeaten 65* from all rounder Ben Aitchison who, due to injury was playing just as a batsman, led the hosts to victory in the 52nd over on 238-5.

Bootle also recorded their first win of the season with a narrow two wicket victory at defending champions **Northern.** The hosts chose to bat and had opener Taylor Cornall (80) to thank for getting them to a total of 134 as the rest failed to make double figures, against a bowling attack led by Will Purser 3-31. In reply, most of the visitors batsmen also struggled but an unbeaten

George Lavelle in action batting for Lancashire.

86* from Vishal Tripathi eventually led them home on 138-8, with Tom Sephton 4-53 and Liam Grey 3-46 taking the bulk of the wickets.

Southport & Birkdale are still looking for their first win of the season after going down by 63 runs at **Orrell Red Triangle.**

The hosts chose to bat and were bowled out for 156, with Andy Baybutt (76*) and Chris Riley (31) scoring the majority of the runs, whilst Chris Cunningham 5-62 and Gary Keedy 3-41 starred with the ball. In reply, only Isaac Lea (40) and Keedy (12*) reached double figures as Tom Jones 4-35 and Siddiq Patel 3-27 helped bowl out S&B for just 93.

Dalton top table after thrilling victory

DALTON won the toss and elected to bowl.

The visitors made a flying start with the opening partnership of 54 coming off just 10 overs.

Dalton's fielding and bowling tightened up for the remainder of the game with Aughton finishing on 157-7 off 45.

Stockley, Burton and Hares all getting 2 wickets each.

The Dalton innings got off to a slow start with the Aughton opening bowler bowling six maidens on the bounce.

With the run rate starting to climb, Jones and Charman started applying pressure and began to pick away at the score before falling on 48 and 34 respectively.

This brought Stockley to the crease (34*) to play some aggressive shots.

With two balls to go and five needed the Aughton bowler bowled a no ball above waist height which Bain (11*) sent flying to the boundary to win the game.

A great start to the season for Dalton who sit top of the Southport & District Amateur Cricket League table.

Lee Westwood

Lee Westwood to tee up alongside Fleetwood in British Masters at Hillside

LEE Westwood will tee up with tournament host Tommy Fleetwood at Betfred British Masters at Hillside Golf Club this week.

Westwood is in pursuit of his 25th European tour title, and his second Masters title, and is part of a strong line-up of British players which includes Ryder Cup stars Tyrrell Hatton, Matt Wallace and defending champion Eddie Pepperell.

Fleetwood's playing companion from his younger days, and fellow Southport man Matthew Baldwin, will also be playing.

Baldwin, 33, was captain of the England Boys side and played alongside Fleetwood in the Lancashire foursomes before turning professional in 2008.

Since then he as played in The Open and US Open and across both the European Tour and European Challenge Tour and hopes his local knowledge of the course will help kick off his season.

Westwood has an impressive record in the British Masters winning the title in 2007 at The Belfry and losing in a play-off the following year, while he also finished third in 2016.

He said: "The British Masters is one of my favourite events to play in.

"I thoroughly enjoyed my hosting duties at Close House in Newcastle two years ago and I'm sure Tommy will have a great experience this year.

"It's great to take the tournament to different parts of the country and we're all looking forward to seeing what Tommy has in store for us.

"Southport is obviously a strong golfing area and it's always nice for the British players to play in front of the home fans, so it should be a great week."

Baldwin said: "For me to continue playing European Tour golf, with the two starts I've had so far, it'll take something special to retain my card but why not? I know Hillside better than 99 per cent of the people playing in that tournament, it's a great opportunity.

"Tommy is a big name in golf now. He's someone I've known all my golfing life and to me he's just Tommy.

"I've played a lot of county games there and I think I played county with him as my foursomes partner too. It's a lovely golf course and to go back and play a European Tour event there will be pretty special.

"It'll be fun for the crowds. I've been fortunate enough to play The Open at Hoylake and Royal Lytham, crowds in the North West love it. It'll be a busy week, for sure. I've been in touch with a lot of friends who will be going and a lot of people from Southport."

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Focus on Weddings

Are you getting married this year or next? Well congratulations! It's a fabulous time to be planning a wedding. Gone are the days of stuffy traditions and stressful plans to please everyone but yourself. We now welcome an age where the sky really is the limit. A wedding is not about going through the motions and following the so called "wedding rule book" (unless that's your thing of course) It's about throwing the rule book out of the window and celebrating your uniqueness and the special quirks that make you such an amazing couple. Having said that, too much choice can sometimes be a little daunting so the aim here is to narrow down some of the trends that we feel will be huge this year, and hopefully help you work out what will make your special day truly amazing!

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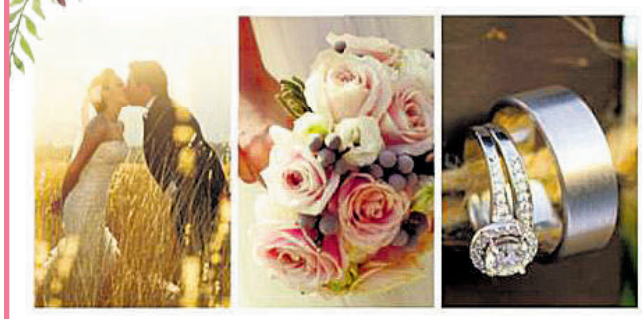

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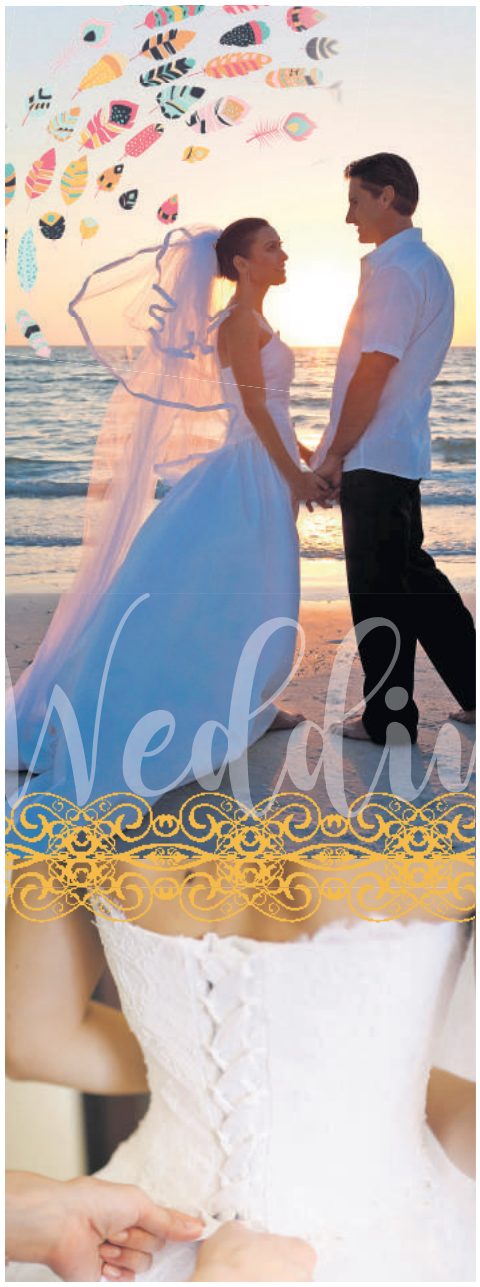

WEDDING ATTIRE

Searching for that perfect wedding dress can be as daunting as it is exciting. For most of us, this is the first and only time we'll be shopping for a wedding dress and lets face it, it's not quite the same as picking out an outfit for work. Finding the perfect wedding dress can be quite a long process and isn't always easy. So to help you avoid any bridal boutique faux pas or dress search frustrations, and to hopefully help make the process as fun and easy as possible, we've put together this quick guide to bridal shopping.

Think about your day and what kind of wedding dress is going to be most appropriate. Getting married on a beach in the height of summer will be much different experience to a formal ballroom reception. Different styles of weddings mean different styles of dresses.

Think about your own personal style and also about your body shape. Consider the various choices available. The style and shape of the dress, necklines, length, waistlines, trains, sleeves etc. You may be planning to drop a few pounds before your big day but you're not going to miraculously grow six inches so think about what suits you now and what YOU love to wear, not what looks great on another person.

Set a budget. In 2018, the average cost of a wedding dress was £1400 with the average wedding coming in at almost £30k. There are cheaper ways to find the dream dress but of course you can also break the bank and blow a huge hole in your budget if you're not careful. Agree an amount with your other half and stick to it. Also, remember to budget for alterations, shoes, lingerie and accessories.

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Start looking sooner rather than later! Give yourself enough time to find the right dress and remember to take the time for alterations into consideration. And while it's fine to try on, don't buy too far in advance (more than a year) as styles change each season.

Organise to go to the appointments on your own, with your Mum or with one or two friends. Do not take an entourage. You need to be able to hear yourself think, and follow your own instincts about which dress makes you look and feel great. If you have kids, leave them at home (with a responsible babysitter obviously) A bridal shop is no place for children!

And it's not just the brides having all the fun now either. There has been a sharp rise in alternative Male fashion with grooms choosing to avoid renting the same suits and instead opting to express their personalities through their attire. After all, it's their special day too! We are seeing a lot more braces, floral ties and dicky bows, coloured shirts and accessories such as hats, funky shoes and socks and amazing buttonholes. Don't just think flowers for buttonholes, there are some fabulous ways of making buttonholes from things that mean something special to you. Have a look online for inspiration.

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Come along to our monthly Wedding Open Evenings on the first Tuesday of every month 4pm til 8pm.

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CHOOSING YOUR WEDDING RINGS

It is customary around the world for married couples to wear wedding rings, as a symbol of their love for one another. Picking your wedding rings is a serious task so make sure you consider everything so you have the best wedding rings for you!

Budget
When setting your overall wedding budget, be sure to include wedding rings. After all, you'll be wearing these wedding rings forever, and it would be nice to spend a little bit more than you would on your regular jewellery.

Shop as a Couple
During your wedding planning some decisions may not be done as a couple, but choosing your wedding rings definitely should be. Dedicate a weekend or two to shopping for your wedding rings and try and visit more than one jeweller so that you see the different styles available before making a final decision.

Consider Shape and Size
Wedding rings come in a variety of different shapes and sizes. For the groom, different metals and styles may be a factor, and for the bride careful consideration needs to be taken, especially if you have an engagement ring that is an unusual style. Bespoke jewellers will be able to help, guide and advise on which metals and styles are the most suitable when it comes to your wedding rings. You could also consider visiting a bespoke wedding ring jeweller if you plan on melting a vintage wedding ring or turning a family heirloom into something special for your own wedding.

Choose the Right Metal
Years ago wedding rings were mainly purchased in a classic gold style. Nowadays they can be designed in a number of different materials. For the bride it's common to choose a metal that matches her engagement ring, whilst for the groom, something stylish and sturdy is generally a good option. Choices available for wedding rings include gold, white gold, rose gold, silver, platinum, palladium, titanium and zirconium to name a few. Prices will vary depending on the style and weight of the metal you choose so consider this when discussing your initial budget.

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FOOD & DRINK

The main things that guests will remember about a wedding are the dress, the entertainment, the special touches and the food. It is one of the main parts of any wedding day so let your personalities shine through in your menu. Maybe you and your partner are foodies and want an all-singing all-dancing menu. Others will be less concerned about what goes on the table. Consider what your style is and whether you want something formal or informal. Would you be happier with a three-course meal or a buffet-style with sharing platters? Whatever you decide to go with, our biggest tip would be to make sure there is plenty for everyone!

Most reputable wedding venues will be flexible with their options and menus and will cater to your requirements so don't be afraid to ask!

WEDDING TRANSPORT

Your wedding transport might not be at the top of your wedding planning to-do-list, but give it a little thought because it can be a great way to make a grand entrance on your big day. Whether for the bridal party or groomsmen arriving at the ceremony, or perhaps for the bride and groom entering the reception, choosing a unique style of wedding transport can make your wedding and your wedding photos even more special.

Do not underestimate how precious that time in the wedding car can be, with the person giving you away helping to settle your nerves and providing them with a chance to tell you how much they love you. Or how amazing the time alone is with your new husband or wife, away from the hustle and bustle of your wedding guests before the party really kicks in.

The veil has been lifted on a brand new **Bespoke Bridal & Evening Dress Shop** in Ainsdale.

LM

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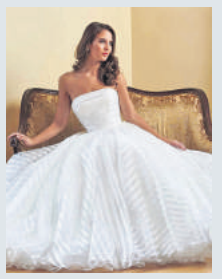
Lily May offers stunning collections which are hand picked from some of the finest designers, along with beautiful accessories to compliment your look. Whilst it's not always necessary to make an appointment it is a good idea to avoid disappointment so you can enjoy complete privacy and sole use of the shop.



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THE 'QUIRKY TOUCHES'...

For the newly weds who love to be different, why not consider adding some special touches to the wedding that reflect your fun loving tastes. These quirky additions are probably the moments that will always be remembered by your guests when looking back on your day. Providing breathtaking surprises, exciting food and drinks or special photo opportunities can really bring your wedding guests together, giving them a talking point for a long time to come.

Some animal loving couples may include their pets on the day dressed up in best bib and tucker.

Or perhaps showing your creative side, home made decorations for your venue may be something to consider. Although this can be somewhat time consuming, it can also be fun and the end effect can be beautiful.

It's always a good idea to remember your little guests too. It can be a long day full of excitement for them and special miniature drinks or treats can go a long way in keeping them happy and occupied. Treats such as miniature non-alcoholic cocktails or personalised cookies are always well received.

For the Bride and Groom, your day can pass by in a flash. Therefore, introducing a photo booth or prop is also a great option. Your guests will have fun posing for photos throughout the day and you will happily be able to look back on these after the event.

Whatever quirky touches you go for, in the end it will be a full reflection of both of you and the things you love so it's always a great way of adding the finishing touches to your special day.

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Eco-friendly weddings are becoming ever more popular and this looks set to continue in 2019. With the realities of climate change and becoming more eco-friendly being a part of our everyday lives, it stands to reason that more and more of us also want to do our part for the environment on one of the biggest days of our lives. Weddings in general don't tend to be particularly eco-friendly events. There is often lots of food waste, plastic packaging and throwaway décor but there are ways of doing your bit, whether you are looking at holding an eco-friendly wedding, or simply adopting a few ideas to help make your big day that bit more sustainable.

Your choice of venue is actually the biggest factor in achieving a more eco-friendly wedding. But don't worry, you don't need to be holding your wedding in a field to achieve this, it's simply a matter of reducing the amount of energy and materials used in bringing the day together. Choose a venue that is close to you and the majority of your guests as the biggest carbon footprint of your wedding will likely be from travel.

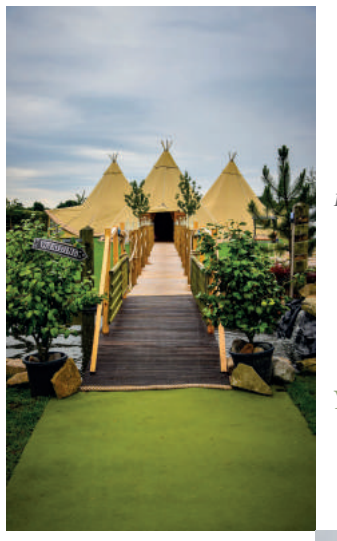
Find a sustainable venue. Instead of transporting and constructing a marquee, hold the day in a permanent building such as a hall, a barn or a county house.

Reduce the number of guests. Good luck with this one, but by being strict with your guest list not only will you keep the cost down, you will also reduce waste and the number of guests who need to travel.

Instead of sending out wedding invitations that are the size of a book, try signing up to a free wedding builder website. Some of them are really great and can help you manage RSVP s, menu choices, provide your guests with accommodation information and much, much more. Plus it's a great way of telling your 'couple story'.

OAKLEA

Let's make a day to remember!



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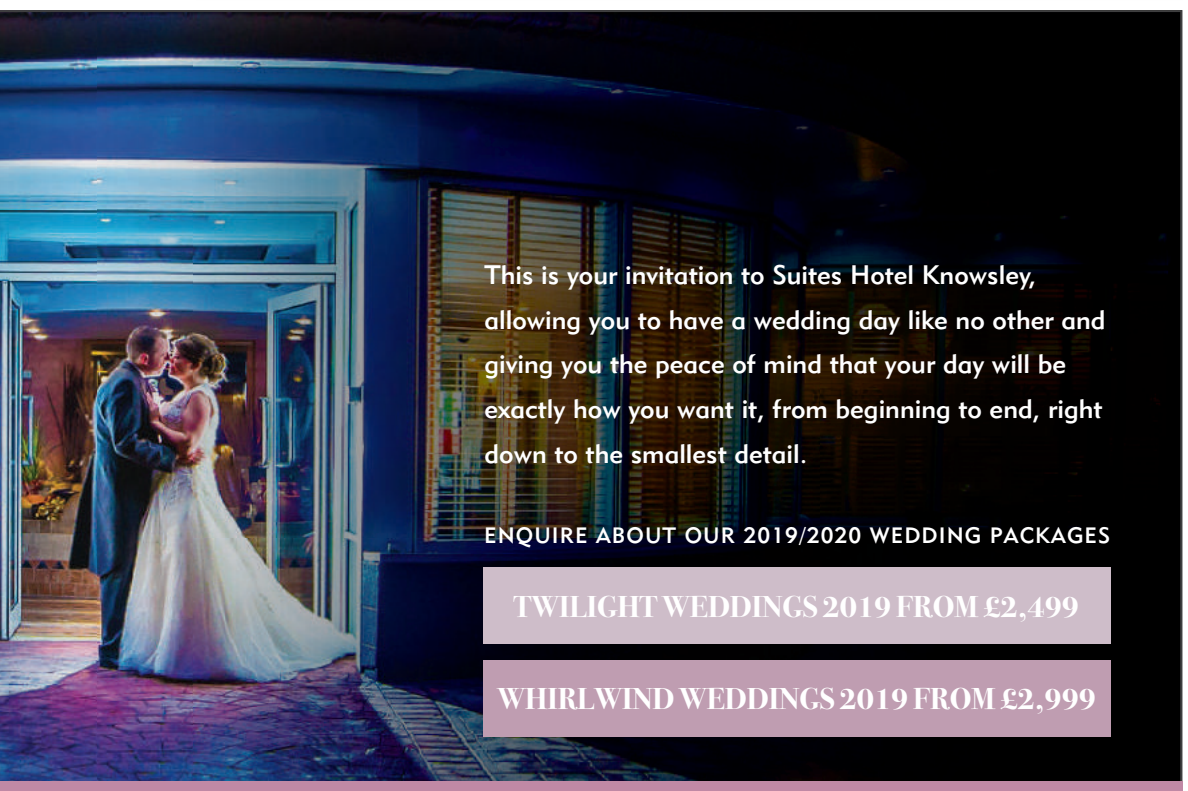

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